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## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Fish and Wildlife Service**

#### **50 CFR Part 20**

**[Docket No. FWS-HQ-MB-2014-0017; FF09M21200-134-FXMB1231099BPP0]**

**RIN 1018-AZ80**

### **Migratory Bird Hunting; Proposed Frameworks for Early-Season Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations; Notice of Meetings**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; supplemental.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (hereinafter Service or we) is proposing to establish the 2014-15 early-season hunting regulations for certain migratory game birds. We annually prescribe frameworks, or outer limits, for dates and times when hunting may occur and the maximum number of birds that may be taken and possessed in early seasons. Early seasons may open as early as September 1, and include seasons in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. These frameworks are necessary to allow State selections of specific final seasons and limits and to allow recreational harvest at levels compatible with population status

and habitat conditions. This proposed rule also provides the final regulatory alternatives for the 2014–15 duck hunting seasons.

**DATES:** *Comments:* You must submit comments on the proposed early-season frameworks by **[insert date 10 days after date of publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

*Meetings:* The Service Migratory Bird Regulations Committee (SRC) will meet to consider and develop proposed regulations for late-season migratory bird hunting and the 2014 spring/summer migratory bird subsistence seasons in Alaska on July 30–31, 2014. All meetings will commence at approximately 8:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** *Comments:* You may submit comments on the proposals by one of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS-HQ-MB-2014-0017.
- U.S. mail or hand delivery: Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-HQ-MB-2014-0017; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Headquarters, MS: BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

We will post all comments on <http://www.regulations.gov>. This generally means that we will post any personal information you provide us (see the **Review of Public Comments** section below for more information).

*Meetings:* The Service Migratory Bird Regulations Committee (SRC) will meet at the Holiday Inn Arlington at Ballston, 4610 N. Fairfax Dr., Arlington, VA.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ron W. Kokel, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, MS: MB, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803; (703) 358-1967.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### **Regulations Schedule for 2014**

On April 30, 2014, we published in the **Federal Register** (79 FR 24512) a proposal to amend 50 CFR part 20. The proposal provided a background and overview of the migratory bird hunting regulations process, and addressed the establishment of seasons, limits, and other regulations for hunting migratory game birds under §§ 20.101 through 20.107, 20.109, and 20.110 of subpart K. Major steps in the 2014–15 regulatory cycle relating to open public meetings and **Federal Register** notifications were also identified in the April 30 proposed rule.

Further, we explained that all sections of subsequent documents outlining hunting frameworks and guidelines were organized under numbered headings. Those headings are:

1. Ducks
  - A. General Harvest Strategy
  - B. Regulatory Alternatives
  - C. Zones and Split Seasons

#### D. Special Seasons/Species Management

- i. September Teal Seasons
- ii. September Teal/Wood Duck Seasons
- iii. Black ducks
- iv. Canvasbacks
- v. Pintails
- vi. Scaup
- vii. Mottled ducks
- viii. Wood ducks
- ix. Youth Hunt
- x. Mallard Management Units
- xi. Other

#### 2. Sea Ducks

#### 3. Mergansers

#### 4. Canada Geese

##### A. Special Seasons

##### B. Regular Seasons

##### C. Special Late Seasons

#### 5. White-fronted Geese

#### 6. Brant

#### 7. Snow and Ross's (Light) Geese

#### 8. Swans

#### 9. Sandhill Cranes

10. Coots
11. Moorhens and Gallinules
12. Rails
13. Snipe
14. Woodcock
15. Band-tailed Pigeons
16. Mourning Doves
17. White-winged and White-tipped Doves
18. Alaska
19. Hawaii
20. Puerto Rico
21. Virgin Islands
22. Falconry
23. Other

Subsequent documents will refer only to numbered items requiring attention. Therefore, it is important to note that we will omit those items requiring no attention, and remaining numbered items will be discontinuous and appear incomplete.

On June 4, 2014, we published in the **Federal Register** (79 FR 32418) a second document providing supplemental proposals for early- and late-season migratory bird hunting regulations. The June 4 supplement also provided detailed information on the 2014–15 regulatory schedule and announced the SRC and Flyway Council meetings.

This document, the third in a series of proposed, supplemental, and final rulemaking documents for migratory bird hunting regulations, deals specifically with proposed frameworks for early-season regulations and the regulatory alternatives for the 2014–15 duck hunting seasons. It will lead to final frameworks from which States may select season dates, shooting hours, and daily bag and possession limits for the 2014–15 season.

We have considered all pertinent comments received through June 27, 2014, on the April 30 and June 4, 2014, rulemaking documents in developing this document. In addition, new proposals for certain early-season regulations are provided for public comment. Comment periods are specified above under **DATES**. We will publish final regulatory frameworks for early seasons in the **Federal Register** on or about August 16, 2014.

### **Service Migratory Bird Regulations Committee Meetings**

Participants at the June 25–26, 2014, meetings reviewed information on the current status of migratory shore and upland game birds and developed 2014–15 migratory game bird regulations recommendations for these species plus regulations for migratory game birds in Alaska, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands; special September waterfowl seasons in designated States; special sea duck seasons in the Atlantic Flyway; and extended falconry seasons. In addition, we reviewed and discussed preliminary information on the status of waterfowl.

Participants at the previously announced July 30–31, 2014, meetings will review information on the current status of waterfowl and develop recommendations for the 2014–15 regulations

pertaining to regular waterfowl seasons and other species and seasons not previously discussed at the early-season meetings. In accordance with Department of the Interior policy, these meetings are open to public observation and you may submit comments on the matters discussed.

### **Population Status and Harvest**

The following paragraphs provide preliminary information on the status of waterfowl and information on the status and harvest of migratory shore and upland game birds excerpted from various reports. For more detailed information on methodologies and results, you may obtain complete copies of the various reports at the address indicated under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** or from our website at

*<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/NewsPublicationsReports.html>.*

### Waterfowl Breeding and Habitat Survey

Federal, provincial, and State agencies conduct surveys each spring to estimate the size of waterfowl breeding populations and to evaluate the conditions of the habitats. These surveys are conducted using fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, and ground crews and encompass principal breeding areas of North America, covering an area over 2.0 million square miles. The traditional survey area comprises Alaska, Canada, and the northcentral United States, and includes approximately 1.3 million square miles. The eastern survey area includes parts of Ontario, Quebec, Labrador, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, New York, and Maine, an area of approximately 0.7 million square miles.

Spring was delayed even later than last year across most of the survey area. Habitat conditions

during the survey were mostly improved or similar to last year, due to average to above-average annual precipitation. The exceptions were west-central Alberta and east of James Bay in Quebec. Alaska was the only region that experienced an early spring. The total pond estimate (Prairie Canada and United States combined) was  $7.2 \pm 0.2$  million which was similar to the 2013 estimate of  $6.9 \pm 0.2$  million and 40 percent above the long-term average of  $5.1 \pm 0.03$  million.

*Traditional Survey Area (U.S. and Canadian Prairies and Parklands)*

In the traditional survey area, the majority of the Canadian prairies had below to well-below-average winter temperatures and average precipitation. Southern Manitoba benefitted from last year's summer and fall precipitation, whereas southern Saskatchewan and most of Alberta were aided by spring 2014 precipitation. The 2014 estimate of ponds in Prairie Canada was  $4.6 \pm 0.2$  million. This estimate was similar to the 2013 estimate ( $4.6 \pm 0.2$  million) and 33 percent above the 1961–2013 average ( $3.5 \pm 0.03$  million). The Parklands remained in good condition from previous years' carry-over water, and the boreal region has benefitted from above-average annual precipitation. Most of the Canadian portion of the traditional survey area was rated as good or excellent this year, and the region continued to receive additional precipitation after the survey.

Much of the U.S. prairies had average winter precipitation and well-below-average winter temperatures that continued into spring. Habitat conditions improved in the western Dakotas and Montana from 2013 but remained similar in the eastern Dakotas. The 2014 pond estimate for the northcentral United States was  $2.6 \pm 0.1$  million which was similar to the 2013 estimate ( $2.3 \pm$



0.1 million) and 53 percent above the 1974–2013 average ( $1.7 \pm 0.02$  million). Waterfowl habitat in North Dakota remains under pressure from wetland drainage, loss of Conservation Reserve Program grasses, and energy development.

### *Eastern Survey Area*

Winter and spring temperatures in the eastern survey area were also well below normal with most areas receiving average to above-average precipitation. Habitat conditions were similar to 2013 or improved, particularly in the northeastern United States. An exception was the area east of James Bay in Quebec, which has experienced dry conditions and extensive wildfires. Less flooding was noted across the eastern survey area, in contrast to some years, and continued cool, damp spring conditions in the Maritimes could limit waterfowl production.

### Status of Teal

The estimate of blue-winged teal from the traditional survey area is 8.5 million. This count was similar to 2013, and is 75 percent above the 1955–2013 average.

### Sandhill Cranes

The annual indices to abundance of Mid-Continent Population (MCP) sandhill cranes have been relatively stable since 1982, and slightly increasing over the last few years. The preliminary spring 2014 index for sandhill cranes in the Central Platte River Valley (CPRV), Nebraska, uncorrected for visibility bias, was 444,144 birds. This estimate is significantly lower than that of last year, but 30 percent above the long-term average. The photo-corrected, 3-year average

for 2011–13 was 563,167, which is above the established population-objective range of 349,000–472,000 cranes.

All Central Flyway States, except Nebraska, allowed crane hunting in portions of their States during 2013–14. Estimates of hunter activity and harvest were not available for all areas at the time of this report. However, preliminary estimates suggest approximately 9,000–10,000 hunters in the U.S. portion of the Central Flyway participated in these seasons, which was about 30 percent higher than the number that participated in the previous season. Those hunters harvested around 20,000 MCP cranes during the 2013–14 seasons, which was 34 percent higher than the harvest for the previous year and 36 percent higher than the long-term average. The retrieved harvest of MCP cranes in hunt areas outside of the Central Flyway (Arizona, Pacific Flyway portion of New Mexico, Minnesota, Alaska, Canada, and Mexico combined) was about 14,000 during 2013–14. The preliminary estimate for the North American MCP sport harvest, including crippling losses, was 38,104 birds, which was a 36 percent increase from the previous year's estimate. The long-term (1982–2012) trends for the MCP indicate that harvest has been increasing at a higher rate than population growth.

The fall 2013 pre-migration survey for the Rocky Mountain Population (RMP) resulted in a count of 20,360 cranes. The 3-year average was 17,757 sandhill cranes, which is within the established population objective of 17,000–21,000 for the RMP. Hunting seasons during 2013–14 in portions of Arizona, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming resulted in a harvest of 678 RMP cranes, a 40 percent decrease from the previous year's harvest.

The Lower Colorado River Valley Population (LCRVP) survey results indicated a 9 percent increase from 3,078 birds in 2013, to 3,353 birds in 2014. The 3-year average is 3,026 LCRVP cranes, which is above the population objective of 2,500.

The Eastern Population (EP) sandhill crane fall survey index (64,322) decreased by 27 percent in 2013, and the 3-year average for the survey is 74,784 cranes. Over the last 3 seasons, Kentucky has harvested an average of 80 birds per year from this population. Tennessee held its first hunting season on these birds last year, and harvested 350 cranes.

### Woodcock

The American woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) is managed as two management regions, the Eastern and the Central. Singing-ground and Wing-collection Surveys were conducted to assess population status. The Singing-ground Survey is intended to measure long-term changes in woodcock population levels. Singing-ground Survey data for 2014 indicate that the number of singing male woodcock per route in the Eastern Management Region was unchanged from 2013, while it was 7.3 percent lower in the Central Management Region. There were significant, declining 10-year trends in woodcock heard for both the Eastern and Central Management Regions during 2004–2014, which marks the first time in 10 years that the 10-year trend for the Eastern Region has been significant and the first time in 3 years that the 10-year trend has been significant in the Central Region. Both management regions have a long-term (1968–2014) declining trend (-1.0 percent per year in the Eastern Management Region and -0.9 percent per year in the Central Management Region).

The Wing-collection Survey provides an index to recruitment. Data from this survey indicate that the 2013 recruitment index for the U.S. portion of the Eastern Region (1.60 immatures per adult female) was 3.2 percent less than the 2012 index, and 2.3 percent less than the long-term (1963–2012) average. The recruitment index for the U.S. portion of the Central Region (1.54 immatures per adult female) was 7.2 percent less than the 2012 index and 1.4 percent less than the long-term (1963–2012) average.

### Band-tailed Pigeons

Two subspecies of band-tailed pigeon occur north of Mexico, and are managed as two separate populations: Interior and Pacific Coast. Information on the abundance and harvest of band-tailed pigeons is collected annually in the United States and British Columbia. Abundance information comes from the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) and the Mineral Site Survey (MSS, specific to the Pacific Coast Population). Harvest and hunter participation are estimated from the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP). The BBS provided evidence that the abundance of Pacific Coast band-tailed pigeons decreased (–2.0 percent per year) over the long term (1968–2013). Trends in abundance during the recent 10- and 5-year periods were inconclusive for both the BBS and MSS. An estimate of hunters and harvest were not available for 2013, but 3,900 hunters harvested 10,900 birds in 2012.

For Interior band-tailed pigeons, the BBS provided evidence that abundance decreased (–5.6 percent per year) over the long term (1968–2013). Trends in abundance during the recent 10- and 5-year periods were inconclusive. An estimated 1,000 hunters harvested 1,600 pigeons in 2013.

## Mourning Doves

Doves in the United States are managed in three management units, Eastern (EMU), Central (CMU), and Western (WMU). We annually summarize information collected in the United States on survival, recruitment, abundance and harvest of mourning doves. We report on trends in the number of doves heard and seen per route from the all-bird BBS, and provide absolute abundance estimates based on band recovery and harvest data. Harvest and hunter participation are estimated from the HIP.

At this time 2013 harvest information and abundance estimates are not available. Estimates of absolute abundance are available only since 2003, and indicate that there are about 349 million doves in the United States, and annual abundance during the recent 5 years appears stationary in the Eastern Management Unit (EMU) and WMU, but may be declining in the CMU. However, abundance appeared to increase between 2011 and 2012 in the CMU and WMU.

The most recent HIP estimates available (2012) for mourning dove total harvest, active hunters, and total days afield in the United States were 14,490,800 birds, 828,900 hunters, and 2,538,000 days afield. Harvest and hunter participation at the unit level were: EMU, 6,279,900 birds, 349,600 hunters, and 1,015,600 days afield; CMU, 6,361,600 birds, 338,700 hunters, and 1,108,700 days afield; and WMU, 1,849,400 birds, 140,700 hunters, and 413,700 days afield.

## **Review of Public Comments**

The preliminary proposed rulemaking (April 30 **Federal Register**) opened the public comment

period for migratory game bird hunting regulations and announced the proposed regulatory alternatives for the 2014–15 duck hunting season. Comments concerning early-season issues and the proposed alternatives are summarized below and numbered in the order used in the April 30 **Federal Register** document. Only the numbered items pertaining to early-seasons issues and the proposed regulatory alternatives for which we received written comments are included. Consequently, the issues do not follow in consecutive numerical or alphabetical order.

We received recommendations from all four Flyway Councils. Some recommendations supported continuation of last year's frameworks. Due to the comprehensive nature of the annual review of the frameworks performed by the Councils, support for continuation of last year's frameworks is assumed for items for which no recommendations were received. Council recommendations for changes in the frameworks are summarized below.

We seek additional information and comments on the recommendations in this supplemental proposed rule. New proposals and modifications to previously described proposals are discussed below. Wherever possible, they are discussed under headings corresponding to the numbered items in the April 30 **Federal Register** document.

## **1. Ducks**

Categories used to discuss issues related to duck harvest management are: (A) General Harvest Strategy; (B) Regulatory Alternatives, including specification of framework dates, season lengths, and bag limits; (C) Zones and Split Seasons; and (D) Special Seasons/Species Management. The categories correspond to previously published issues/discussions, and only

those containing substantial recommendations are discussed below.

### **A. General Harvest Strategy**

*Council Recommendations:* The Mississippi Flyway Council recommended that regulations changes be restricted to one step per year, both when restricting as well as liberalizing hunting regulations.

*Service Response:* As we stated in the April 30 **Federal Register**, we intend to continue use of Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) to help determine appropriate duck-hunting regulations for the 2014–15 season. AHM is a tool that permits sound resource decisions in the face of uncertain regulatory impacts, as well as providing a mechanism for reducing that uncertainty over time. The current AHM protocol is used to evaluate four alternative regulatory levels based on the population status of mallards and their breeding habitat (i.e., abundance of ponds) (special hunting restrictions are enacted for certain species, such as canvasbacks, black ducks, scaup, and pintails).

Regarding the Mississippi Flyway Council recommendation to limit regulatory changes to one step per year, we noted in the May 2013 release of the SEIS on sport hunting and associated Record of Decision (78 FR 45385) that any recommendations for changes such as the inclusion of a one-step constraint should be considered within the context of the process that is being used to revise current AHM protocols. As AHM decision-making frameworks for mid-continent mallards are modified in the upcoming revision process, regulatory alternatives should be crafted by the Flyways in the context of those changes, including revised harvest management objectives and the demographic

models that predict changes in waterfowl status due to those regulations. We look forward to working with the Flyway Councils in this exercise.

We will propose a specific regulatory alternative for each of the Flyways during the 2014–15 season after survey information becomes available later this summer. More information on AHM is located at

<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Management/AHM/AHM-intro.htm>.

## **B. Regulatory Alternatives**

*Council Recommendations:* The Mississippi and Central Flyway Councils recommended that regulatory alternatives for duck hunting seasons remain the same as those used in 2013–14.

*Service Response:* The regulatory alternatives proposed in the April 30 **Federal Register** will be used for the 2014–15 hunting season (see accompanying table at the end of this proposed rule for specifics). In 2005, the AHM regulatory alternatives were modified to consist only of the maximum season lengths, framework dates, and bag limits for total ducks and mallards. Restrictions for certain species within these frameworks that are not covered by existing harvest strategies will be addressed during the late-season regulations process. For those species with specific harvest strategies (canvasbacks, pintails, black ducks, and scaup), those strategies will again be used for the 2014–15 hunting season.

## **D. Special Seasons/Species Management**

### **i. September Teal Seasons**



*Council Recommendations:* The Mississippi Flyway Council recommended that Iowa, Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin be granted special September teal hunting seasons for an experimental 3-year period beginning in September 2014. The Council recommended that the framework for these seasons follow the established teal harvest strategy (i.e., 9 or 16 days with up to 6 bird daily limits) with sunrise to sunset shooting hours. Further, they recommended that the Service work with these States to develop a mutually acceptable evaluation plan prior to June 2014. In the event that this recommendation is not approved or Iowa declines the opportunity, the Council recommended that Iowa be allowed to retain their early September duck season.

The Central Flyway Council recommended allowing an experimental September teal season in the portion of Nebraska not currently open to September teal hunting. Criteria for the experimental season would be the same as for other non-production States, and the State of Nebraska will work with the Service to develop an evaluation plan for the experiment.

*Service Response:* We appreciate the long-standing interest by the Flyway Councils to pursue additional teal harvest opportunity. With this interest in mind, in 2009, the Flyways and Service began to assess the collective results of all teal harvest, including harvest during special September seasons. The Teal Harvest Potential Working Group conducted this assessment work, which included a thorough assessment of the harvest potential for both blue-winged and green-winged teal, as well as an assessment of the impacts of current special September seasons on these two species. Cinnamon teal were subsequently included in this assessment.

In the April 9, 2013, **Federal Register**, we stated that the final report of the Teal Harvest

## Potential Working Group

(<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/NewReportsPublications/Teal/Final%20Teal%20Assessment%20Report%20Mar%2012%202013.pdf>) indicated that additional opportunity could be provided for blue-winged teal and green-winged teal. Therefore, last year, we supported recommendations from the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyway Councils to increase the daily bag limit from 4 to 6 teal in the aggregate during the Special September teal season in 2013–14. However, at that time, we did not support additional changes to the structure of the September teal season until specific management objectives for teal had been articulated and a comprehensive, cross-flyway approach to developing and evaluating other potential avenues by which additional teal harvest opportunity could be provided had been completed. We recognized, however, that this comprehensive approach could include addition of new hunting seasons (e.g., September teal seasons in northern States) as well as expanded hunting opportunities (e.g., season lengths, bag limits) in States with existing teal seasons.

After the February SRC meeting, in the April 30, 2014, **Federal Register** (79 FR 24518), we indicated that we were willing to consider proposals to conduct experimental September teal seasons in production States if fully evaluated for impacts to teal and non-target species. Thus, we agree with the Mississippi Flyway Council's recommendation to allow an experimental special September teal season in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Iowa, and the Central Flyway Council's recommendation to allow an experimental season in the production area of Nebraska (generally north of the Platte River). During the 3-year experiment, a 16-day season with a 6-teal daily bag limit will be offered if the blue-winged teal population estimate from the traditional survey area (i.e., strata 1-18, 20-50, and 75-77) is > 4.7 million birds, and a 9-day

season will be offered when the blue-winged teal estimate is between 3.3 and 4.7 million birds. We will work with the five affected States to develop evaluation plans and associated memoranda of agreement (MOA) for these experiments. The plan will consist of a 3-year evaluation of hunter performance (via spy blind studies) with regard to attempt rates on non-target species during the experimental September teal season.

Before the season is approved operationally, the participating States must demonstrate negligible impacts to non-target species, defined as a non-target attempt rate no greater than 0.25 and non-target kill rate no greater than 0.10. The season will not be approved for operational status if the experiment determines that (1) the upper 90 percent confidence limit on the attempt rate at non-target species exceeds 0.25, or (2) the kill of non-target species exceeds 10 percent of the kill of teal and non-target species combined. Additional specifics regarding the evaluations will be contained in the MOAs. Further, if any of the participating States wish to allow pre-sunrise shooting hours during the special September teal season experiment, this evaluation must examine attempt rates on non-target species during both the period 30 minutes prior to sunrise and the post-sunrise period. Nebraska should conduct their experiment independent from the four States in the Mississippi Flyway.

If Iowa decides to participate in this experiment, Iowa must suspend their 5-day September duck season for the duration of their participation. Iowa has requested, and we concur, that upon conclusion of the experiment they be given the opportunity to revert back to a 5-day September duck season if they so desire, regardless of the results of the experiment. However, if Iowa decides to retain their 5-day September duck season, or revert to it after the experiment, they will

not be allowed to implement a September teal season in subsequent years. States should submit annual progress reports for this evaluation and a final report must be submitted and accepted by the Service before we consider making such seasons operational.

Regarding the regulations for this year, utilizing the criteria developed for the teal season harvest strategy, this year's estimate of 8.5 million blue-winged teal from the traditional survey area indicates that a 16-day September teal season in the Atlantic, Central, and Mississippi Flyways is appropriate for 2014.

## **ii. September Teal/Wood Duck Seasons**

*Council Recommendations:* The Atlantic Flyway Council recommended that the daily bag limit for teal in Florida during the September teal/wood duck season be a total of 6 birds with no more than 2 wood ducks (the current total bag is 4 birds with no more than 2 wood ducks). The Council further recommended that Florida be permitted to add additional teal-only days to their September teal/wood duck season. In years when the teal harvest strategy calls for a 9-day teal season, Florida would maintain their current 5-day teal/wood duck season. In years when the teal harvest strategy calls for a 16-day teal season, Florida would add 4 additional teal-only days to their current 5-day teal/wood duck season.

The Mississippi Flyway Council recommended that the teal bag limit during Kentucky and Tennessee's September teal/wood duck seasons be the same as that permitted in other States with September teal-only seasons. The Council further recommended that States with September teal/wood duck seasons (Kentucky and Tennessee) be permitted to add additional teal-only days

to their September teal/wood duck seasons. In years when the teal harvest strategy calls for a 9-day teal season, those States would maintain their current 5-day wood duck/teal season. In years when the teal harvest strategy calls for a 16-day teal season, those States would add 4 additional teal-only days to their current 5-day teal/wood duck season.

*Service Response:* Given the results from the previously referenced final report of the Teal Harvest Potential Working Group indicating that additional opportunity could be provided for blue-winged teal and green-winged teal (see discussion in **D. Special Seasons/Species Management, i. September Teal Seasons**), we concur with the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyway Councils' recommendations to allow 4 additional teal-only days during their September teal/wood duck season in Florida, Kentucky, and Tennessee when the teal harvest strategy provides for a 16-day Special September teal season. The 4 additional days must be consecutive and be held contiguously (i.e., no split) with the wood duck/teal portion of this special season. Furthermore, this change must be accompanied by an extensive public outreach effort to alert hunters to the differential regulations for the two time periods during the special season, especially with regard to wood ducks. Finally, this change is contingent on completion of a 3-year evaluation of hunter performance (via spy blind studies) with regard to attempt rates on non-target species during the "teal-only" portion of this special season.

Before the "teal only" portion of this season is approved operationally, the States must demonstrate negligible impacts to non-target species, defined as a non-target attempt rate no greater than 0.25 and non-target kill rate no greater than 0.10. The "teal only" portion of this season will not be approved for operational status if the experiment determines that (1) the upper

90 percent confidence limit on the attempt rate at non-target species exceeds 0.25, or (2) the kill of non-target species exceeds 10 percent of the kill of teal and non-target species combined. Additional specifics regarding the evaluations will be contained in the MOAs. If any of the 3 States wishes to retain pre-sunrise shooting hours during the “teal only” portion of the season, this evaluation must examine attempt rates on non-target species during both the period 30 minutes prior to sunrise and the post-sunrise period. This special season will not be expanded to other States.

#### **xi. Other**

*Council Recommendations:* The Central Flyway Council recommended that two additional blue-winged teal be allowed in the daily duck bag for the first 16 days of the regular duck season in the production States of North and South Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming. Impacts of this change would be evaluated over the first 3 years, beginning with the 2014–15 hunting season.

*Service Response:* In the April 30 **Federal Register**, we stated that “any proposal to increase teal harvest, in order to be consistent with the intent of special regulations, should direct harvest primarily at blue-winged teal, and further that if Flyway Councils wished to pursue past regulatory approaches such as bonus teal, . . . to provide additional teal harvest opportunity, we requested that they provide compelling information as to why such policies and approaches should be reinstated (i.e., bonus teal) . . .” While we further stated that we would prefer a consistent approach toward providing additional teal opportunities in northern States, we recognize the Central Flyway’s preference for using bonus blue-winged teal bag limits to provide additional teal opportunities and the Central Flyway’s rationale for doing so. Thus, we support

the Central Flyway Council's recommendation to include bonus blue-winged teal in the regular season daily duck bag limit. The recent assessment of teal harvest opportunity indicated additional harvest potential for this species can be supported in most years (see discussion in **D. Special Seasons/Species Management, i. September Teal Seasons**), and we believe the proposal for bonus blue-winged teal will provide hunters increased opportunities with a very low likelihood of negative impacts to the blue-winged teal population. Further, we believe impacts to species other than blue-winged teal also are likely to be low. We will work with the Flyways to develop appropriate evaluation techniques to monitor any potential effects.

Thus, beginning in the 2014–15 regular duck seasons, we propose that two bonus blue-winged teal be included for the first 16 days of the regular duck season of the Central, Mississippi, and Atlantic Flyways when the blue-winged teal population estimate from the traditional survey area (i.e., strata 1-18, 20-50, and 75-77) is >4.7 million birds, and for the first 9 days when the blue-winged teal estimate is between 3.3 and 4.7 million. Bonus blue-winged teal will not be allowed when the blue-winged teal estimate is less than 3.3 million. In the Central Flyway, this regulation would be available only to the States of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. In the Mississippi Flyway, if Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, or Wisconsin desire to include bonus blue-winged teal in their regulations instead of an experimental special September teal season, they should submit a recommendation to the Service during the upcoming late-season regulation process. Northern States in the Atlantic Flyway (i.e., Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and West Virginia) may also select bonus blue-winged teal under the same regulations, but must submit a recommendation to do so at the upcoming late-season regulation process.

During the next 3 years, no expansion of teal opportunities in either production or non-production States in any Flyway will be allowed. These stipulations are to ensure that an evaluation of bonus blue-winged teal can proceed immediately and a comprehensive teal harvest strategy can be developed. The evaluation plan must be reviewed and supported by the Service's Division of Migratory Bird Management, and the strategy vetted by the Harvest Management Working Group and approved by the Service.

Bonus birds of other species will only be considered after a rigorous assessment of the harvest potential of the species, appropriate evaluations of the effects of the addition of the species to the bonus bag limit, and integration of the regulations into the applicable duck harvest management strategy(ies) in place at the time. Flyway(s) proposing such changes would be responsible for providing the resources for all necessary work.

Finally, because the proposal to allow two bonus blue-winged teal during the first 16 days of the regular duck season is technically a late season issue, and we have yet to propose specific frameworks for late seasons, we will reiterate this proposal in the forthcoming late season proposed rule (tentatively scheduled for mid to late August). Proposed frameworks for each Flyway will provide detailed specifics on the bonus blue-winged teal proposal.

#### **4. Canada Geese**

##### **A. Special Seasons**

*Council Recommendations:* The Pacific Flyway Council recommended increasing the daily bag



limit from 5 to 15 Canada geese in Pacific County, Washington. The Council also pointed out the need to eliminate several previously approved framework restrictions in Wyoming and Idaho.

*Service Response:* We agree with the Pacific Flyway Council's request to increase the Canada goose daily bag limit in Pacific County, Washington, and eliminate several previously approved framework restrictions in Wyoming and Idaho. The special early Canada goose hunting season is generally designed to reduce or control overabundant resident Canada goose populations. Increasing the daily bag limit from 5 to 15 geese in Pacific County, Washington, may help reduce or control existing populations of resident Canada geese, particularly those non-migratory (resident) dark-breasted Canada geese. Resident dark-breasted Canada geese are a result of the release in the mid-1970s of a transplanted flock of dusky Canada geese held in captivity since 1958. These transplanted geese hybridized with native, non-migratory western Canada geese and are similar in appearance to migratory dusky Canada geese for which there are especially restrictive regulations to minimize incidental harvest. Harvest of dark-breasted resident Canada geese during the regular hunting season can result in violation and premature closure of the regular Canada goose hunting season if these geese are misidentified as migratory dusky Canada geese.

## **B. Regular Seasons**

*Council Recommendations:* The Mississippi Flyway Council recommended that the framework opening date for all species of geese for the regular goose seasons in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan and Wisconsin be September 16, 2014, and in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan be September 11, 2014.

*Service Response:* We concur with recommended framework opening dates. Michigan, beginning in 1998, and Wisconsin, beginning in 1989, have opened their regular Canada goose seasons prior to the Flyway-wide framework opening date to address resident goose management concerns in these States. As we have previously stated (73 FR 50678, August 27, 2008), we agree with the objective to increase harvest pressure on resident Canada geese in the Mississippi Flyway and will continue to consider the opening dates in both States as exceptions to the general Flyway opening date, to be reconsidered annually. The framework closing date for the early goose season in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan is September 10. By changing the framework opening date for the regular season to September 11 in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan there will be no need to close goose hunting in that area for 5 days and thus lose the ability to maintain harvest pressure on resident Canada geese. We note that the most recent resident Canada goose estimate for the Mississippi Flyway was a record high 1,767,900 geese during the spring of 2012, 8 percent higher than the 2011 estimate of 1,629,800 geese, and well above the Flyway's population goal of 1.18 to 1.40 million birds.

### **C. Special Late Seasons**

*Council Recommendations:* The Atlantic Flyway Council recommended that Rhode Island be approved for minor expansion of the late season hunting zone boundary for Canada geese.

*Service Response:* We concur with the Council's recommended minor late season hunting zone expansion in Rhode Island. Resident Canada geese are overabundant in the Atlantic Flyway, and their numbers continue to increase in Rhode Island despite special early and late seasons

designed to control them. No harvest of migrant Canada geese has been documented during Rhode Island's special late season for resident Canada geese, and we expect that this expansion will increase harvest pressure on resident geese without impacting migrant Canada geese.

## **9. Sandhill Cranes**

*Council Recommendations:* The Atlantic and Mississippi Flyway Councils recommended that Kentucky be allowed a 1-year continuation of their sandhill crane season for the 2014–15 season under harvest guidelines approved for their experimental season.

The Central and Pacific Flyway Councils recommended the expansion of an existing Rocky Mountain Population (RMP) sandhill crane hunting unit in southwestern Montana (the Dillon/Twin Bridges/Cardwell hunt area to include all of Madison and Gallatin Counties). The Councils also recommended using the 2014 RMP sandhill crane harvest allocation of 676 birds as proposed in the allocation formula using the 3-year running population average for 2011–13.

*Service Response:* We agree with the recommendation to allow Kentucky a 1-year continuation of their sandhill crane season. Although data from the third year of the experimental season is not yet available for review and incorporation into their assessment and final report, data from the first and second years indicate that harvest has been within the anticipated harvest analyzed in the 2011 environmental assessment. We look forward to receiving the final report this winter and will make a decision on the season's continuation next summer.

We also agree with the Central and Pacific Flyway Councils' recommendations on the RMP

sandhill crane hunt area expansion in southwestern Montana and harvest allocation of 676 birds for the 2014–15 season, as outlined in the RMP sandhill crane management plan’s hunt area requirements and harvest allocation formula. The objective for RMP sandhill cranes is to manage for a stable population index of 17,000–21,000 cranes determined by an average of the three most recent, reliable September (fall pre-migration) surveys. Additionally, the RMP management plan allows for the regulated harvest of cranes when the 3-year average of the population indices exceeds 15,000 cranes. In 2013, 20,360 cranes were counted in the September survey, an increase from the previous year’s count of 15,417 cranes. The most recent 3-year average for the RMP sandhill crane fall index was 17,757, a slight decrease from the previous 3-year average of 17,992.

#### **14. Woodcock**

In 2011, we implemented an interim harvest strategy for woodcock for a period of 5 years (2011–15) (76 FR 19876, April 8, 2011). The interim harvest strategy provides a transparent framework for making regulatory decisions for woodcock season length and bag limit while we work to improve monitoring and assessment protocols for this species. Utilizing the criteria developed for the interim strategy, the 3-year average for the Singing Ground Survey indices and associated confidence intervals fall within the “moderate package” for both the Eastern and Central Management Regions. As such, a “moderate season” for both management regions for the 2014–15 woodcock hunting season is appropriate. Specifics of the interim harvest strategy can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/NewsPublicationsReports.html>.

#### **15. Band-tailed Pigeons**

Last year, the Pacific Flyway Council recommended reducing the daily bag limit for the Interior population of band-tailed pigeons from 5 birds to 2 (season length was unchanged at about 30 days), and the Central Flyway Council recommended no change. The Pacific Flyway Council also expressed concern about the status of the population and what an appropriate framework may be, and expressed concern about the inequity between frameworks between the Pacific Coast and Interior populations given similar population trajectories. While we did not change the Federal frameworks, we did reiterate our longstanding practice of giving considerable deference to harvest strategies developed in cooperative Flyway management plans. We further stated that a harvest strategy does not exist for the Interior population of band-tailed pigeons even though the development of one was identified as a high priority when the management plan was adopted in 2001. Thus, we recommended that the two Flyway Councils discuss this issue and advise us of the results of these deliberations at our June 2014 regulatory meeting. It is our desire to see adoption of a mutually acceptable harvest strategy for this population as soon as possible. We also note that both Arizona and Utah opted for more restrictive regulations last year than the Federal frameworks allow. While we recognize the pro-active nature of these voluntary State restrictions in part of the species' range, the actions do not fully address population-wide concerns expressed by the Pacific Flyway Council.

Despite our request, the Pacific and Central Flyway Councils did not reach consensus on what an appropriate framework may be (although both the Pacific and Central Flyways recommended no change in the Federal framework this year, leaving the option for restriction up to individual States), and indicated that development of a harvest strategy was not forthcoming. We have taken a close look at the limited data, and believe further investigation is warranted to ensure

harvest is commensurate with population status. We recognize the need and difficulty in obtaining additional data for this population, but believe that there are analytical techniques that may allow use of available information to quantify the harvest potential of this population and better inform what an appropriate framework may be. We recommend that the Council's work together and with the Service's Division of Migratory Bird Management to review available information and conduct an assessment of the harvest potential of this population. We request they advise us of the results of this assessment and develop a regulatory recommendation using this information at our June 2015 regulatory meeting.

## **16. Mourning Doves**

*Council Recommendations:* The Atlantic and Mississippi Flyway Councils recommended use of the "standard" season framework comprised of a 90-day season and 15-bird daily bag limit for States within the Eastern Management Unit. The daily bag limit could be composed of mourning doves and white-winged doves, singly or in combination.

The Mississippi and Central Flyway Councils recommend the use of the "standard" season package of a 15-bird daily bag limit and a 70-day season for the 2014–15 mourning dove season in the States within the Central Management Unit.

The Pacific Flyway Council recommended use of the "standard" season framework for States in the Western Management Unit (WMU) population of doves. In Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington, the season length would be no more than 60 consecutive days with a daily bag limit of 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate. In Arizona and California, the

season length would be no more than 60 consecutive days, which could be split between two periods, September 1–15 and November 1–January 15. In Arizona, during the first segment of the season, the daily bag limit would be 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate, of which no more than 10 could be white-winged doves. During the remainder of the season, the daily bag limit would be 15 mourning doves. In California, the daily bag limit would be 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate, of which no more than 10 could be white-winged doves.

The Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyway Councils also recommended that the Service use a 3-year running average to calculate the predicted dove abundance in the annual assessment of the status of mourning doves in support of the regulation-setting process under the dove harvest strategy beginning with the 2015–16 hunting season.

*Service Response:* Last year, we approved implementation of the national mourning dove harvest strategy, as developed by the Mourning Dove Task Force, for the 2014–15 hunting season (78 FR 52658, August 23, 2013). This strategy replaced the interim harvest strategies that had been in place since 2009. A copy of the new strategy is available at available on our Web site at

<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/NewReportsPublications/Dove/MODO%20Harvest%20Strategy%202014.pdf>, or at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

We also support modification of this national harvest strategy such that a 3-year running average is used to calculate each year's abundance estimate and calculate predicted dove abundance in

the annual assessment of the status of mourning doves beginning with the 2015–16 hunting season as recommended by all four flyway Councils and vetted through the Mourning Dove Task Force. This Task Force continues to be a useful venue for developing issues for consideration and potential modification to the National Strategy.

This year, based on the harvest strategies and current population status, we agree with the recommended selection of the “standard” season frameworks for doves in the Eastern, Central, and Western Management Units.

## **18. Alaska**

*Council Recommendations:* The Pacific Flyway Council recommended several changes in the Alaska early season frameworks. Specifically, they recommended:

1. Splitting the “Dark Geese” framework into separate frameworks for Canada geese and white-fronted geese.
2. For both Canada geese and white-fronted geese, the basic framework for season dates, outside dates, zones, and daily bag and possession limits remains the same as it was under “Dark Geese.”
3. In Unit 18, in western Alaska, white-fronted geese daily bag and possession limits would be increased from a dark goose daily bag limit of 6 birds, 18 in possession, to a white-fronted goose daily bag limit of 8 birds, 24 in possession.
4. In Units 6B, 6C, and Hawkins and Hinchinbrook Islands in 6D, if dusky Canada geese exceed the population threshold to return to Action Level 1 status (3-year average based on May 2011, 2012, and 2014 surveys), then implement Action Level 1 regulations as stated in the Pacific Flyway Council’s management plan for dusky geese, and eliminate requirements for a



special permit hunt and harvest quota, but maintain possession limits at 2 times the daily bag limit.

*Service Response:* We agree with the Pacific Flyway Council's recommended changes in the Alaska early season frameworks, including elimination of requirements for a special permit hunt and harvest quota in Units 6B, 6C, and Hawkins and Hinchinbrook Islands in 6D. The 3-year (2011–13) moving average fall population of Pacific white-fronted geese was 628,198 geese, and is well above the population objective of 300,000 geese as identified in the Pacific Flyway Council's management plan for this population. The Yukon-Kuskowim Delta (Unit 18) supports over 95 percent of the breeding population of Pacific white-fronted geese.

With regard to the Action Level regulations as described in the Council's management plan for dusky Canada geese, the dusky Canada goose population estimate for 2014 was 15,049 geese and represents an increase from the 2012 estimate of 13,660 geese (there was no estimate available in 2013). The recent 3-year (2011–14) average population estimate was 13,503 geese, which is above the threshold of 12,500 geese necessary to remove Action Level 2 harvest restrictions and return to Action Level 1 harvest regulations, which do not require a special permit hunt and harvest quota for dusky Canada geese.

### **Public Comments**

The Department of the Interior's policy is, whenever possible, to afford the public an opportunity to participate in the rulemaking process. Accordingly, we invite interested persons to submit written comments, suggestions, or recommendations regarding the proposed regulations. Before

promulgating final migratory game bird hunting regulations, we will consider all comments we receive. These comments, and any additional information we receive, may lead to final regulations that differ from these proposals.

You may submit your comments and materials concerning this proposed rule by one of the methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section. We will not accept comments sent by e-mail or fax. We will not consider hand-delivered comments that we do not receive, or mailed comments that are not postmarked, by the date specified in the **DATES** section.

We will post all comments in their entirety—including your personal identifying information—on <http://www.regulations.gov>. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Comments and materials we receive, as well as supporting documentation we used in preparing this proposed rule, will be available for public inspection on <http://www.regulations.gov>, or by appointment, during normal business hours, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Management, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

For each series of proposed rulemakings, we will establish specific comment periods. We will consider, but possibly may not respond in detail to, each comment. As in the past, we will

summarize all comments we receive during the comment period and respond to them after the closing date in the preambles of any final rules.

### **Required Determinations**

Based on our most current data, we are affirming our required determinations made in the proposed rule; for descriptions of our actions to ensure compliance with the following statutes and Executive Orders, see our April 30, 2014, proposed rule (79 FR 24512):

- National Environmental Policy Act;
- Endangered Species Act;
- Regulatory Planning and Review;
- Regulatory Flexibility Act;
- Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act;
- Paperwork Reduction Act;
- Unfunded Mandates Reform Act;
- Executive Orders 12630, 12988, 13175, 13132, and 13211.

### **List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 20**

Exports, Hunting, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation, Wildlife.

The rules that eventually will be promulgated for the 2014–15 hunting season are authorized under 16 U.S.C. 703-712 and 16 U.S.C. 742 a-j.

Dated: July 21, 2014

Rachel Jacobson

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

**Proposed Regulations Frameworks for 2014–15 Early Hunting Seasons on Certain Migratory Game Birds**

Pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and delegated authorities, the Department of the Interior approved the following proposed frameworks, which prescribe season lengths, bag limits, shooting hours, and outside dates within which States may select hunting seasons for certain migratory game birds between September 1, 2014, and March 10, 2015. These frameworks are summarized below.

**General**

Dates: All outside dates noted below are inclusive.

Shooting and Hawking (taking by falconry) Hours: Unless otherwise specified, from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset daily.

Possession Limits: Unless otherwise specified, possession limits are three times the daily bag limit.

Permits: For some species of migratory birds, the Service authorizes the use of permits to

regulate harvest or monitor their take by sport hunters, or both. In many cases (e.g., tundra swans, some sandhill crane populations), the Service determines the amount of harvest that may be taken during hunting seasons during its formal regulations-setting process, and the States then issue permits to hunters at levels predicted to result in the amount of take authorized by the Service. Thus, although issued by States, the permits would not be valid unless the Service approved such take in its regulations.

These Federally authorized, State-issued permits are issued to individuals, and only the individual whose name and address appears on the permit at the time of issuance is authorized to take migratory birds at levels specified in the permit, in accordance with provisions of both Federal and State regulations governing the hunting season. The permit must be carried by the permittee when exercising its provisions and must be presented to any law enforcement officer upon request. The permit is not transferrable or assignable to another individual, and may not be sold, bartered, traded, or otherwise provided to another person. If the permit is altered or defaced in any way, the permit becomes invalid.

## **Flyways and Management Units**

### **Waterfowl Flyways:**

Atlantic Flyway—includes Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Mississippi Flyway—includes Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana,

Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

Central Flyway—includes Colorado (east of the Continental Divide), Kansas, Montana (Counties of Blaine, Carbon, Fergus, Judith Basin, Stillwater, Sweetgrass, Wheatland, and all Counties east thereof), Nebraska, New Mexico (east of the Continental Divide except the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation), North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming (east of the Continental Divide).

Pacific Flyway—includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and those portions of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming not included in the Central Flyway.

## **Management Units**

### **Mourning Dove Management Units:**

Eastern Management Unit—All States east of the Mississippi River, and Louisiana.

Central Management Unit—Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming.

Western Management Unit—Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

### **Woodcock Management Regions:**

Eastern Management Region—Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Central Management Region—Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin.

Other geographic descriptions are contained in a later portion of this document.

### **Definitions**

*Dark geese:* Canada geese, white-fronted geese, brant (except in Alaska, California, Oregon, Washington, and the Atlantic Flyway), and all other goose species, except light geese.

*Light geese:* snow (including blue) geese and Ross's geese.

### **Waterfowl Seasons in the Atlantic Flyway**

In the Atlantic Flyway States of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania, where Sunday hunting is prohibited Statewide by State law, all Sundays are closed to all take of migratory waterfowl (including mergansers and coots).

### **Special September Teal Season**

Outside Dates: Between September 1 and September 30, an open season on all species of teal may be selected by the following States in areas delineated by State regulations:

Atlantic Flyway—Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Mississippi Flyway—Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. The seasons in Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin are experimental.

Central Flyway—Colorado (part), Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico (part), Oklahoma, and Texas. The season in the northern portion of Nebraska is experimental.

Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits: Not to exceed 16 consecutive hunting days in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways. The daily bag limit is 6 teal.

Shooting Hours:

Atlantic Flyway—One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except in South Carolina, where the hours are from sunrise to sunset.

Mississippi and Central Flyways—One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except in the States of Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin, where the hours are from sunrise to sunset.

### **Special September Duck Seasons**

Florida, Kentucky and Tennessee: In lieu of a special September teal season, a



5-consecutive-day season may be selected in September. The daily bag limit may not exceed 6 teal and wood ducks in the aggregate, of which no more than 2 may be wood ducks. In addition, a 4-consecutive-day experimental season may be selected in September either immediately before or immediately after the 5-consecutive day teal/wood duck season. The daily bag limit is 6 teal.

Iowa: In lieu of an experimental special September teal season, Iowa may hold up to 5 days of its regular duck hunting season in September. All ducks that are legal during the regular duck season may be taken during the September segment of the season. The September season segment may commence no earlier than the Saturday nearest September 20 (September 20). The daily bag and possession limits will be the same as those in effect last year but are subject to change during the late-season regulations process. The remainder of the regular duck season may not begin before October 10.

### **Special Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days**

Outside Dates: States may select 2 days per duck-hunting zone, designated as “Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days,” in addition to their regular duck seasons. The days must be held outside any regular duck season on a weekend, holidays, or other non-school days when youth hunters would have the maximum opportunity to participate. The days may be held up to 14 days before or after any regular duck-season frameworks or within any split of a regular duck season, or within any other open season on migratory birds.

Daily Bag Limits: The daily bag limits may include ducks, geese, mergansers, coots, and

gallinules and will be the same as those allowed in the regular season. Flyway species and area restrictions will remain in effect.

Shooting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Participation Restrictions: Youth hunters must be 15 years of age or younger. In addition, an adult at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth hunter into the field. This adult may not duck hunt but may participate in other seasons that are open on the special youth day.

**Scoters, Eiders, and Long-tailed Ducks (Atlantic Flyway)**

Outside Dates: Between September 15 and January 31.

Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits: Not to exceed 107 days, with a daily bag limit of 7, singly or in the aggregate, of the listed sea duck species, of which no more than 4 may be scoters.

Daily Bag Limits During the Regular Duck Season: Within the special sea duck areas, during the regular duck season in the Atlantic Flyway, States may choose to allow the above sea duck limits in addition to the limits applying to other ducks during the regular duck season. In all other areas, sea ducks may be taken only during the regular open season for ducks and are part of the regular duck season daily bag (not to exceed 4 scoters) and possession limits.

Areas: In all coastal waters and all waters of rivers and streams seaward from the first upstream bridge in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York; in

any waters of the Atlantic Ocean and in any tidal waters of any bay which are separated by at least 1 mile of open water from any shore, island, and emergent vegetation in New Jersey, South Carolina, and Georgia; and in any waters of the Atlantic Ocean and in any tidal waters of any bay which are separated by at least 800 yards of open water from any shore, island, and emergent vegetation in Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia; and provided that any such areas have been described, delineated, and designated as special sea duck hunting areas under the hunting regulations adopted by the respective States.

### **Special Early Canada Goose Seasons**

#### **Atlantic Flyway**

##### **General Seasons**

A Canada goose season of up to 15 days during September 1–15 may be selected for the Eastern Unit of Maryland. Seasons not to exceed 30 days during September 1–30 may be selected for Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, New Jersey, New York (Long Island Zone only), North Carolina, Rhode Island, and South Carolina. Seasons may not exceed 25 days during September 1–25 in the remainder of the Flyway. Areas open to the hunting of Canada geese must be described, delineated, and designated as such in each State's hunting regulations.

Daily Bag Limits: Not to exceed 15 Canada geese.

Shooting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except that during any general season, shooting hours may extend to one-half hour after sunset if all other waterfowl seasons are closed in the specific applicable area.

## **Mississippi Flyway**

### **General Seasons**

Canada goose seasons of up to 15 days during September 1–15 may be selected, except in the Upper Peninsula in Michigan, where the season may not extend beyond September 10, and in Minnesota, where a season of up to 22 days during September 1–22 may be selected. The daily bag limit may not exceed 5 Canada geese, except in designated areas of Minnesota where the daily bag limit may not exceed 10 Canada geese. Areas open to the hunting of Canada geese must be described, delineated, and designated as such in each State's hunting regulations.

A Canada goose season of up to 10 consecutive days during September 1–10 may be selected by Michigan for Huron, Saginaw, and Tuscola Counties, except that the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Shiawassee River State Game Area Refuge, and the Fish Point Wildlife Area Refuge will remain closed. The daily bag limit may not exceed 5 Canada geese.

**Shooting Hours:** One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except that during September 1–15 shooting hours may extend to one-half hour after sunset if all other waterfowl and crane seasons are closed in the specific applicable area.

## **Central Flyway**

### **General Seasons**

In Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Texas, Canada goose seasons of up to 30 days during September 1–30 may be selected. In Colorado, New Mexico, North Dakota,

Montana, and Wyoming, Canada goose seasons of up to 15 days during September 1–15 may be selected. The daily bag limit may not exceed 5 Canada geese, except in Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma, where the daily bag limit may not exceed 8 Canada geese and in North Dakota and South Dakota, where the daily bag limit may not exceed 15 Canada geese. Areas open to the hunting of Canada geese must be described, delineated, and designated as such in each State's hunting regulations.

Shooting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except that during September 1–15 shooting hours may extend to one-half hour after sunset if all other waterfowl and crane seasons are closed in the specific applicable area.

### **Pacific Flyway**

#### **General Seasons**

California may select a 9-day season in Humboldt County during September 1–15. The daily bag limit is 2.

Colorado may select a 9-day season during September 1–15. The daily bag limit is 4.

Oregon may select a 15-day season during September 1–15. In addition, Oregon may select a 15-day season in the Northwest Zone during September 1–20. The daily bag limit is 5.

Idaho may select a 7-day season during September 1–15. The daily bag limit is 2.

Washington may select a 15-day season during September 1–15. The daily bag limit is 5, except in Pacific County where the daily bag limit is 15.

Wyoming may select an 8-day season during September 1–15. The daily bag limit is 3

Areas open to hunting of Canada geese in each State must be described, delineated, and designated as such in each State's hunting regulations.

## **Regular Goose Seasons**

### **Mississippi Flyway**

Regular goose seasons may open as early as September 11 in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and September 16 in Wisconsin and the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. Season lengths, bag and possession limits, and other provisions will be established during the late-season regulations process.

### **Sandhill Cranes**

#### **Regular Seasons in the Mississippi Flyway:**

Outside Dates: Between September 1 and February 28.

Hunting Seasons: A season not to exceed 37 consecutive days may be selected in the designated portion of northwestern Minnesota (Northwest Goose Zone).

Daily Bag Limit: 2 sandhill cranes.

Permits: Each person participating in the regular sandhill crane season must have a valid Federal or State sandhill crane hunting permit.

**Experimental Seasons in the Mississippi Flyway:**

Outside Dates: Between September 1 and January 31.

Hunting Seasons: A season not to exceed 30 consecutive days may be selected in Kentucky and a season not to exceed 60 consecutive days may be selected in Tennessee.

Daily Bag Limit: Not to exceed 2 daily and 2 per season in Kentucky. Not to exceed 3 daily and 3 per season in Tennessee.

Permits: Each person participating in the regular sandhill crane season must have a valid Federal or State sandhill crane hunting permit.

Other Provisions: Numbers of permits, open areas, season dates, protection plans for other species, and other provisions of seasons must be consistent with the management plan and approved by the Mississippi Flyway Council.

**Regular Seasons in the Central Flyway:**

Outside Dates: Between September 1 and February 28.

Hunting Seasons: Seasons not to exceed 37 consecutive days may be selected in designated portions of Texas (Area 2). Seasons not to exceed 58 consecutive days may be selected in designated portions of the following States: Colorado, Kansas, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Seasons not to exceed 93 consecutive days may be selected in designated portions of the following States: New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Daily Bag Limits: 3 sandhill cranes, except 2 sandhill cranes in designated portions of North Dakota (Area 2) and Texas (Area 2).

Permits: Each person participating in the regular sandhill crane season must have a valid Federal or State sandhill crane hunting permit.

**Special Seasons in the Central and Pacific Flyways:**

Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming may select seasons for hunting sandhill cranes within the range of the Rocky Mountain Population (RMP) subject to the following conditions:

Outside Dates: Between September 1 and January 31.

Hunting Seasons: The season in any State or zone may not exceed 30 consecutive days.



Bag limits: Not to exceed 3 daily and 9 per season.

Permits: Participants must have a valid permit, issued by the appropriate State, in their possession while hunting.

Other Provisions: Numbers of permits, open areas, season dates, protection plans for other species, and other provisions of seasons must be consistent with the management plan and approved by the Central and Pacific Flyway Councils, with the following exceptions:

- A. In Utah, 100 percent of the harvest will be assigned to the RMP quota;
- B. In Arizona, monitoring the racial composition of the harvest must be conducted at 3-year intervals;
- C. In Idaho, 100 percent of the harvest will be assigned to the RMP quota; and
- D. In New Mexico, the season in the Estancia Valley is experimental, with a requirement to monitor the level and racial composition of the harvest; greater sandhill cranes in the harvest will be assigned to the RMP quota.

**Special Seasons in the Pacific Flyway:**

Arizona may select a season for hunting sandhill cranes within the range of the Lower Colorado River Population (LCR) of sandhill cranes, subject to the following conditions:

Outside Dates: Between January 1 and January 31.

Hunting Seasons: The season may not exceed 3 days.

Bag limits: Not to exceed 1 daily and 1 per season.

Permits: Participants must have a valid permit, issued by the appropriate State, in their possession while hunting.

Other provisions: The season is experimental. Numbers of permits, open areas, season dates, protection plans for other species, and other provisions of seasons must be consistent with the management plan and approved by the Pacific Flyway Council.

### **Common Moorhens and Purple Gallinules**

Outside Dates: Between September 1 and the last Sunday in January (January 25) in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways. States in the Pacific Flyway have been allowed to select their hunting seasons between the outside dates for the season on ducks; therefore, they are late-season frameworks, and no frameworks are provided in this document.

Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits: Seasons may not exceed 70 days in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways. Seasons may be split into 2 segments. The daily bag limit is 15 common moorhens and purple gallinules, singly or in the aggregate of the two species.

Zoning: Seasons may be selected by zones established for duck hunting.

## **Rails**

Outside Dates: States included herein may select seasons between September 1 and the last Sunday in January (January 25) on clapper, king, sora, and Virginia rails.

Hunting Seasons: Seasons may not exceed 70 days, and may be split into 2 segments.

Daily Bag Limits:

Clapper and King Rails—In Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland, 10, singly or in the aggregate of the two species. In Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia, 15, singly or in the aggregate of the two species.

Sora and Virginia Rails—In the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways and the Pacific Flyway portions of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming, 25 rails, singly or in the aggregate of the two species. The season is closed in the remainder of the Pacific Flyway.

## **Snipe**

Outside Dates: Between September 1 and February 28, except in Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia, where the season must end no later than January 31.

Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits: Seasons may not exceed 107 days and may be split into two segments. The daily bag limit is 8 snipe.

Zoning: Seasons may be selected by zones established for duck hunting.

### **American Woodcock**

Outside Dates: States in the Eastern Management Region may select hunting seasons between October 1 and January 31. States in the Central Management Region may select hunting seasons between the Saturday nearest September 22 (September 20) and January 31.

Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits: Seasons may not exceed 45 days in the Eastern Region and 45 days in the Central Region. The daily bag limit is 3. Seasons may be split into two segments.

Zoning: New Jersey may select seasons in each of two zones. The season in each zone may not exceed 36 days.

### **Band-tailed Pigeons**

#### **Pacific Coast States (California, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada)**

Outside Dates: Between September 15 and January 1.

Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits: Not more than 9 consecutive days, with a daily bag

limit of 2.

**Zoning:** California may select hunting seasons not to exceed 9 consecutive days in each of two zones. The season in the North Zone must close by October 3.

#### **Four-Corners States (Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah)**

**Outside Dates:** Between September 1 and November 30.

**Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits:** Not more than 30 consecutive days, with a daily bag limit of 5.

**Zoning:** New Mexico may select hunting seasons not to exceed 20 consecutive days in each of two zones. The season in the South Zone may not open until October 1.

#### **Doves**

**Outside Dates:** Between September 1 and January 15, except as otherwise provided, States may select hunting seasons and daily bag limits as follows:

#### **Eastern Management Unit**

**Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits:** Not more than 90 days, with a daily bag limit of 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate.

**Zoning and Split Seasons:** States may select hunting seasons in each of two zones. The season

within each zone may be split into not more than three periods. Regulations for bag and possession limits, season length, and shooting hours must be uniform within specific hunting zones.

### **Central Management Unit**

For all States except Texas:

Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits: Not more than 70 days, with a daily bag limit of 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate.

Zoning and Split Seasons: States may select hunting seasons in each of two zones. The season within each zone may be split into not more than three periods.

Texas:

Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits: Not more than 70 days, with a daily bag limit of 15 mourning, white-winged, and white-tipped doves in the aggregate, of which no more than 2 may be white-tipped doves.

Zoning and Split Seasons: Texas may select hunting seasons for each of three zones subject to the following conditions:

A. The hunting season may be split into not more than two periods, except in that portion of Texas in which the special white-winged dove season is allowed, where a limited take of mourning and white-tipped doves may also occur during that special season (see Special

White-winged Dove Area).

B. A season may be selected for the North and Central Zones between September 1 and January 25; and for the South Zone between the Friday nearest September 20 (September 19), but not earlier than September 17, and January 25.

C. Except as noted above, regulations for bag and possession limits, season length, and shooting hours must be uniform within each hunting zone.

Special White-winged Dove Area in Texas:

In addition, Texas may select a hunting season of not more than 4 days for the Special White-winged Dove Area of the South Zone between September 1 and September 19. The daily bag limit may not exceed 15 white-winged, mourning, and white-tipped doves in the aggregate, of which no more than 2 may be mourning doves and no more than 2 may be white-tipped doves.

### **Western Management Unit**

Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits:

Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington—Not more than 60 consecutive days, with a daily bag limit of 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate.

Arizona and California—Not more than 60 days, which may be split between two periods, September 1–15 and November 1–January 15. In Arizona, during the first segment of the season, the daily bag limit is 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate, of which no

more than 10 could be white-winged doves. During the remainder of the season, the daily bag limit is 15 mourning doves. In California, the daily bag limit is 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate, of which no more than 10 could be white-winged doves.

## **Alaska**

Outside Dates: Between September 1 and January 26.

Hunting Seasons: Alaska may select 107 consecutive days for waterfowl, sandhill cranes, and common snipe in each of 5 zones. The season may be split without penalty in the Kodiak Zone. The seasons in each zone must be concurrent.

Closures: The hunting season is closed on emperor geese, spectacled eiders, and Steller's eiders.

Daily Bag and Possession Limits:

Ducks—Except as noted, a basic daily bag limit of 7 ducks. Daily bag limits in the North Zone are 10, and in the Gulf Coast Zone, they are 8. The basic limits may include no more than 1 canvasback daily and may not include sea ducks.

In addition to the basic duck limits, Alaska may select sea duck limits of 10 daily, singly or in the aggregate, including no more than 6 each of either harlequin or long-tailed ducks. Sea ducks include scoters, common and king eiders, harlequin ducks, long-tailed ducks, and common and red-breasted mergansers.



Light Geese—The daily bag limit is 4.

Canada Geese—The daily bag limit is 4 with the following exceptions:

A. In Units 5 and 6, the taking of Canada geese is permitted from September 28 through December 16.

B. On Middleton Island in Unit 6, a special, permit-only Canada goose season may be offered.

A mandatory goose identification class is required. Hunters must check in and check out. The bag limit is 1 daily and 1 in possession. The season will close if incidental harvest includes 5 dusky Canada geese. A dusky Canada goose is any dark-breasted Canada goose (Munsell 10 YR color value five or less) with a bill length between 40 and 50 millimeters.

C. In Units 6-B, 6-C, and on Hinchinbrook and Hawkins Islands in Unit 6-D, the possession limit is two times the daily bag limit.

D. In Units 9, 10, 17, and 18, the daily bag limit is 6 Canada geese.

White-fronted Geese—The daily bag limit is 4 with the following exceptions:

A. In Units 9, 10, and 17, the daily bag limit is 6 white-fronted geese.

B. In Unit 18, the daily bag limit is 8 white-fronted geese.

Brant—The daily bag limit is 2.

Snipe—The daily bag limit is 8.

Sandhill cranes—The daily bag limit is 2 in the Southeast, Gulf Coast, Kodiak, and Aleutian Zones, and Unit 17 in the North Zone. In the remainder of the North Zone (outside Unit 17), the daily bag limit is 3.

Tundra Swans—Open seasons for tundra swans may be selected subject to the following conditions:

A. All seasons are by registration permit only.

B. All season framework dates are September 1–October 31.

C. In Unit 17, no more than 200 permits may be issued during this operational season. No more than 3 tundra swans may be authorized per permit, with no more than 1 permit may be issued per hunter per season.

D. In Unit 18, no more than 500 permits may be issued during the operational season. No more than 3 tundra swans may be authorized per permit. No more than 1 permit may be issued per hunter per season.

E. In Unit 22, no more than 300 permits may be issued during the operational season. No more than 3 tundra swans may be authorized per permit. No more than 1 permit may be issued per hunter per season.

F. In Unit 23, no more than 300 permits may be issued during the operational season. No more than 3 tundra swans may be authorized per permit. No more than 1 permit may be issued per hunter per season.

## **Hawaii**

Outside Dates: Between October 1 and January 31.

Hunting Seasons: Not more than 65 days (75 under the alternative) for mourning doves.

Bag Limits: Not to exceed 15 (12 under the alternative) mourning doves.

Note: Mourning doves may be taken in Hawaii in accordance with shooting hours and other regulations set by the State of Hawaii, and subject to the applicable provisions of 50 CFR part 20.

## **Puerto Rico**

Doves and Pigeons

Outside Dates: Between September 1 and January 15.

Hunting Seasons: Not more than 60 days.

Daily Bag and Possession Limits: Not to exceed 20 Zenaida, mourning, and white-winged doves in the aggregate, of which not more than 10 may be Zenaida doves and 3 may be mourning doves. Not to exceed 5 scaly-naped pigeons.

Closed Seasons: The season is closed on the white-crowned pigeon and the plain pigeon, which are protected by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Closed Areas: There is no open season on doves or pigeons in the following areas: Municipality of Culebra, Desecheo Island, Mona Island, El Verde Closure Area, and Cidra Municipality and adjacent areas.

Ducks, Coots, Moorhens, Gallinules, and Snipe

Outside Dates: Between October 1 and January 31.

Hunting Seasons: Not more than 55 days may be selected for hunting ducks, common moorhens, and common snipe. The season may be split into two segments.

Daily Bag Limits:

Ducks—Not to exceed 6.

Common moorhens—Not to exceed 6.

Common snipe—Not to exceed 8.

Closed Seasons: The season is closed on the ruddy duck, white-cheeked pintail, West Indian whistling duck, fulvous whistling duck, and masked duck, which are protected by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The season also is closed on the purple gallinule, American coot, and Caribbean coot.

Closed Areas: There is no open season on ducks, common moorhens, and common snipe in the Municipality of Culebra and on Desecheo Island.

### **Virgin Islands**

Doves and Pigeons

Outside Dates: Between September 1 and January 15.

Hunting Seasons: Not more than 60 days for Zenaida doves.

Daily Bag and Possession Limits: Not to exceed 10 Zenaida doves.

Closed Seasons: No open season is prescribed for ground or quail doves or pigeons.

Closed Areas: There is no open season for migratory game birds on Ruth Cay (just south of St. Croix).

Local Names for Certain Birds: Zenaida dove, also known as mountain dove; bridled quail-dove, also known as Barbary dove or partridge; common ground-dove, also known as stone dove, tobacco dove, rola, or tortolita; scaly-naped pigeon, also known as red-necked or scaled pigeon.

#### Ducks

Outside Dates: Between December 1 and January 31.

Hunting Seasons: Not more than 55 consecutive days.

Daily Bag Limits: Not to exceed 6.

Closed Seasons: The season is closed on the ruddy duck, white-cheeked pintail, West Indian whistling duck, fulvous whistling duck, and masked duck.

#### **Special Falconry Regulations**

Falconry is a permitted means of taking migratory game birds in any State meeting Federal falconry standards in 50 CFR 21.29. These States may select an extended season for taking migratory game birds in accordance with the following:

Extended Seasons: For all hunting methods combined, the combined length of the extended season, regular season, and any special or experimental seasons must not exceed 107 days for

any species or group of species in a geographical area. Each extended season may be divided into a maximum of 3 segments.

Framework Dates: Seasons must fall between September 1 and March 10.

Daily Bag Limits: Falconry daily bag limits for all permitted migratory game birds must not exceed 3 birds, singly or in the aggregate, during extended falconry seasons, any special or experimental seasons, and regular hunting seasons in all States, including those that do not select an extended falconry season.

Regular Seasons: General hunting regulations, including seasons and hunting hours, apply to falconry in each State listed in 50 CFR 21.29. Regular season bag limits do not apply to falconry. The falconry bag limit is not in addition to gun limits.

## **Area, Unit, and Zone Descriptions**

### **Doves**

#### **Alabama**

South Zone—Baldwin, Barbour, Coffee, Covington, Dale, Escambia, Geneva, Henry, Houston, and Mobile Counties.

North Zone—Remainder of the State.

#### **California**

White-winged Dove Open Areas—Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties.

## **Florida**

Northwest Zone—The Counties of Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, Washington, Leon (except that portion north of U.S. 27 and east of State Road 155), Jefferson (south of U.S. 27, west of State Road 59 and north of U.S. 98), and Wakulla (except that portion south of U.S. 98 and east of the St. Marks River).

South Zone—Remainder of State.

## **Louisiana**

North Zone—That portion of the State north of a line extending east from the Texas border along State Highway 12 to U.S. Highway 190, east along U.S. 190 to Interstate Highway 12, east along Interstate 12 to Interstate Highway 10, then east along Interstate Highway 10 to the Mississippi border.

South Zone—The remainder of the State.

## **Mississippi**

North Zone—That portion of the State north and west of a line extending west from the Alabama State line along U.S. Highway 84 to its junction with State Highway 35, then south along State Highway 35 to the Louisiana State line.



South Zone—The remainder of Mississippi.

## **Texas**

North Zone—That portion of the State north of a line beginning at the International Bridge south of Fort Hancock; north along FM 1088 to TX 20; west along TX 20 to TX 148; north along TX 148 to I-10 at Fort Hancock; east along I-10 to I-20; northeast along I-20 to I-30 at Fort Worth; northeast along I-30 to the Texas–Arkansas State line.

South Zone—That portion of the State south and west of a line beginning at the International Bridge south of Del Rio, proceeding east on U.S. 90 to State Loop 1604 west of San Antonio; then south, east, and north along Loop 1604 to Interstate Highway 10 east of San Antonio; then east on I-10 to Orange, Texas.

Special White-winged Dove Area in the South Zone— That portion of the state south and west of a line beginning at the International Toll Bridge in Del Rio; then northeast along U.S.

Highway 277 Spur to Highway 90 in Del Rio; thence east along U. S. Highway 90 to State Loop 1604; thence along Loop 1604 south and east to Interstate Highway 37; thence south along Interstate Highway 37 to U.S. Highway 181 in Corpus Christi; thence north and east along U.S. 181 to the Corpus Christi Ship Channel, thence eastwards along the south shore of the Corpus Christi Ship Channel to the Gulf of Mexico.

Central Zone—That portion of the State lying between the North and South Zones.

## **Band-tailed Pigeons**

### **California**

North Zone—Alpine, Butte, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity Counties.

South Zone—The remainder of the State.

### **New Mexico**

North Zone—North of a line following U.S. 60 from the Arizona State line east to I-25 at Socorro and then south along I-25 from Socorro to the Texas State line.

South Zone—The remainder of the State.

### **Washington**

Western Washington—The State of Washington excluding those portions lying east of the Pacific Crest Trail and east of the Big White Salmon River in Klickitat County.

### **Woodcock**

#### **New Jersey**

North Zone—That portion of the State north of NJ 70.

South Zone—The remainder of the State.

## **Special September Canada Goose Seasons**

### **Atlantic Flyway**

#### **Connecticut**

North Zone—That portion of the State north of I-95.

South Zone—The remainder of the State.

#### **Maryland**

Eastern Unit—Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties; and that part of Anne Arundel County east of Interstate 895, Interstate 97 and Route 3; that part of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County east of Route 301 to the Virginia State line.

Western Unit—Allegany, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery, and Washington Counties and that part of Anne Arundel County west of Interstate 895, Interstate 97 and Route 3; that part of Prince George's County west of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County west of Route 301 to the Virginia State line.

#### **Massachusetts**

Western Zone—That portion of the State west of a line extending south from the Vermont border on I-91 to MA 9, west on MA 9 to MA 10, south on MA 10 to U.S. 202, south on U.S. 202 to the Connecticut border.

Central Zone—That portion of the State east of the Berkshire Zone and west of a line extending south from the New Hampshire border on I-95 to U.S. 1, south on U.S. 1 to I-93, south on I-93 to MA 3, south on MA 3 to U.S. 6, west on U.S. 6 to MA 28, west on MA 28 to I-195, west to the Rhode Island border; except the waters, and the lands 150 yards inland from the high-water mark, of the Assonet River upstream to the MA 24 bridge, and the Taunton River upstream to the Center St.–Elm St. bridge will be in the Coastal Zone.

Coastal Zone—That portion of Massachusetts east and south of the Central Zone.

## **New York**

Lake Champlain Zone—The U.S. portion of Lake Champlain and that area east and north of a line extending along NY 9B from the Canadian border to U.S. 9, south along U.S. 9 to NY 22 south of Keesville; south along NY 22 to the west shore of South Bay, along and around the shoreline of South Bay to NY 22 on the east shore of South Bay; southeast along NY 22 to U.S. 4, northeast along U.S. 4 to the Vermont border.

Eastern Long Island Goose Area (North Atlantic Population (NAP) High Harvest Area)—That area of Suffolk County lying east of a continuous line extending due south from the New York-Connecticut boundary to the northernmost end of Roanoke Avenue in the Town of Riverhead; then south on Roanoke Avenue (which becomes County Route 73) to State Route 25; then west on Route 25 to Peconic Avenue; then south on Peconic Avenue to County Route (CR) 104 (Riverleigh Avenue); then south on CR 104 to CR 31 (Old Riverhead Road); then south on CR

31 to Oak Street; then south on Oak Street to Potunk Lane; then west on Stevens Lane; then south on Jessup Avenue (in Westhampton Beach) to Dune Road (CR 89); then due south to international waters.

Western Long Island Goose Area (Resident Population (RP) Area)—That area of Westchester County and its tidal waters southeast of Interstate Route 95 and that area of Nassau and Suffolk Counties lying west of a continuous line extending due south from the New York-Connecticut boundary to the northernmost end of the Sunken Meadow State Parkway; then south on the Sunken Meadow Parkway to the Sagtikos State Parkway; then south on the Sagtikos Parkway to the Robert Moses State Parkway; then south on the Robert Moses Parkway to its southernmost end; then due south to international waters.

Central Long Island Goose Area (NAP Low Harvest Area)—That area of Suffolk County lying between the Western and Eastern Long Island Goose Areas, as defined above.

Western Zone—That area west of a line extending from Lake Ontario east along the north shore of the Salmon River to I-81, and south along I-81 to the Pennsylvania border.

Northeastern Zone—That area north of a line extending from Lake Ontario east along the north shore of the Salmon River to I-81, south along I-81 to NY 49, east along NY 49 to NY 365, east along NY 365 to NY 28, east along NY 28 to NY 29, east along NY 29 to I-87, north along I-87 to U.S. 9 (at Exit 20), north along U.S. 9 to NY 149, east along NY 149 to U.S. 4, north along U.S. 4 to the Vermont border, exclusive of the Lake Champlain Zone.

Southeastern Zone—The remaining portion of New York.

## **Pennsylvania**

Southern James Bay Population (SJB) Zone—The area north of I-80 and west of I-79, including in the city of Erie west of Bay Front Parkway to and including the Lake Erie Duck Zone (Lake Erie, Presque Isle, and the area within 150 yards of the Lake Erie Shoreline).

## **Vermont**

Lake Champlain Zone—The U.S. portion of Lake Champlain and that area north and west of the line extending from the New York border along U.S. 4 to VT 22A at Fair Haven; VT 22A to U.S. 7 at Vergennes; U.S. 7 to VT 78 at Swanton; VT 78 to VT 36; VT 36 to Maquam Bay on Lake Champlain; along and around the shoreline of Maquam Bay and Hog Island to VT 78 at the West Swanton Bridge; VT 78 to VT 2 in Alburg; VT 2 to the Richelieu River in Alburg; along the east shore of the Richelieu River to the Canadian border.

Interior Zone—That portion of Vermont east of the Lake Champlain Zone and west of a line extending from the Massachusetts border at Interstate 91; north along Interstate 91 to US 2; east along US 2 to VT 102; north along VT 102 to VT 253; north along VT 253 to the Canadian border.

Connecticut River Zone—The remaining portion of Vermont east of the Interior Zone.

## **Mississippi Flyway**

### **Arkansas**

Early Canada Goose Area—Baxter, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Clark, Conway, Crawford, Faulkner, Franklin, Garland, Hempstead, Hot Springs, Howard, Johnson, Lafayette, Little River, Logan, Madison, Marion, Miller, Montgomery, Newton, Perry, Pike, Polk, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Searcy, Sebastian, Sevier, Scott, Van Buren, Washington, and Yell Counties.

### **Illinois**

North September Canada Goose Zone—That portion of the State north of a line extending west from the Indiana border along Interstate 80 to I-39, south along I-39 to Illinois Route 18, west along Illinois Route 18 to Illinois Route 29, south along Illinois Route 29 to Illinois Route 17, west along Illinois Route 17 to the Mississippi River, and due south across the Mississippi River to the Iowa border.

Central September Canada Goose Zone—That portion of the State south of the North September Canada Goose Zone line to a line extending west from the Indiana border along I-70 to Illinois Route 4, south along Illinois Route 4 to Illinois Route 161, west along Illinois Route 161 to Illinois Route 158, south and west along Illinois Route 158 to Illinois Route 159, south along Illinois Route 159 to Illinois Route 3, south along Illinois Route 3 to St. Leo's Road, south along St. Leo's road to Modoc Road, west along Modoc Road to Modoc Ferry Road, southwest along Modoc Ferry Road to Levee Road, southeast along Levee Road to County Route 12 (Modoc Ferry entrance Road), south along County Route 12 to the Modoc Ferry route and southwest on the Modoc Ferry route across the Mississippi River to the Missouri border.

South September Canada Goose Zone—That portion of the State south and east of a line extending west from the Indiana border along Interstate 70, south along U.S. Highway 45, to Illinois Route 13, west along Illinois Route 13 to Greenbriar Road, north on Greenbriar Road to Sycamore Road, west on Sycamore Road to N. Reed Station Road, south on N. Reed Station Road to Illinois Route 13, west along Illinois Route 13 to Illinois Route 127, south along Illinois Route 127 to State Forest Road (1025 N), west along State Forest Road to Illinois Route 3, north along Illinois Route 3 to the south bank of the Big Muddy River, west along the south bank of the Big Muddy River to the Mississippi River, west across the Mississippi River to the Missouri border.

South Central September Canada Goose Zone—The remainder of the State between the south border of the Central Zone and the North border of the South Zone

## **Iowa**

North Zone—That portion of the State north of U.S. Highway 20.

South Zone—The remainder of Iowa.

Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Goose Zone—Includes portions of Linn and Johnson Counties bounded as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the west border of Linn County and Linn County Road E2W; then south and east along County Road E2W to Highway 920; then north along Highway 920 to County Road E16; then east along County Road E16 to County Road W58; then



south along County Road W58 to County Road E34; then east along County Road E34 to Highway 13; then south along Highway 13 to Highway 30; then east along Highway 30 to Highway 1; then south along Highway 1 to Morse Road in Johnson County; then east along Morse Road to Wapsi Avenue; then south along Wapsi Avenue to Lower West Branch Road; then west along Lower West Branch Road to Taft Avenue; then south along Taft Avenue to County Road F62; then west along County Road F62 to Kansas Avenue; then north along Kansas Avenue to Black Diamond Road; then west on Black Diamond Road to Jasper Avenue; then north along Jasper Avenue to Rohert Road; then west along Rohert Road to Ivy Avenue; then north along Ivy Avenue to 340<sup>th</sup> Street; then west along 340<sup>th</sup> Street to Half Moon Avenue; then north along Half Moon Avenue to Highway 6; then west along Highway 6 to Echo Avenue; then north along Echo Avenue to 250<sup>th</sup> Street; then east on 250<sup>th</sup> Street to Green Castle Avenue; then north along Green Castle Avenue to County Road F12; then west along County Road F12 to County Road W30; then north along County Road W30 to Highway 151; then north along the Linn–Benton County line to the point of beginning.

Des Moines Goose Zone—Includes those portions of Polk, Warren, Madison and Dallas Counties bounded as follows: Beginning at the intersection of Northwest 158<sup>th</sup> Avenue and County Road R38 in Polk County; then south along R38 to Northwest 142<sup>nd</sup> Avenue; then east along Northwest 142<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to Northeast 126<sup>th</sup> Avenue; then east along Northeast 126<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Northeast 46<sup>th</sup> Street; then south along Northeast 46<sup>th</sup> Street to Highway 931; then east along Highway 931 to Northeast 80<sup>th</sup> Street; then south along Northeast 80<sup>th</sup> Street to Southeast 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue; then west along Southeast 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Highway 65; then south and west along Highway 65 to Highway 69 in Warren County; then south along Highway 69 to County

Road G24; then west along County Road G24 to Highway 28; then southwest along Highway 28 to 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue; then north along 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue to Ford Street; then west along Ford Street to Filmore Street; then west along Filmore Street to 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue; then south along 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 155<sup>th</sup> Street in Madison County; then west along 155<sup>th</sup> Street to Cumming Road; then north along Cumming Road to Badger Creek Avenue; then north along Badger Creek Avenue to County Road F90 in Dallas County; then east along County Road F90 to County Road R22; then north along County Road R22 to Highway 44; then east along Highway 44 to County Road R30; then north along County Road R30 to County Road F31; then east along County Road F31 to Highway 17; then north along Highway 17 to Highway 415 in Polk County; then east along Highway 415 to Northwest 158<sup>th</sup> Avenue; then east along Northwest 158<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the point of beginning.

Cedar Falls/Waterloo Goose Zone—Includes those portions of Black Hawk County bounded as follows: Beginning at the intersection of County Roads C66 and V49 in Black Hawk County, then south along County Road V49 to County Road D38, then west along County Road D38 to State Highway 21, then south along State Highway 21 to County Road D35, then west along County Road D35 to Grundy Road, then north along Grundy Road to County Road D19, then west along County Road D19 to Butler Road, then north along Butler Road to County Road C57, then north and east along County Road C57 to U.S. Highway 63, then south along U.S. Highway 63 to County Road C66, then east along County Road C66 to the point of beginning.

## **Michigan**

North Zone – Same as North duck zone.

Middle Zone – Same as Middle duck zone.

South Zone – Same as South duck zone.

## **Minnesota**

Northwest Goose Zone—That portion of the State encompassed by a line extending east from the North Dakota border along U.S. Highway 2 to State Trunk Highway (STH) 32, north along STH 32 to STH 92, east along STH 92 to County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 2 in Polk County, north along CSAH 2 to CSAH 27 in Pennington County, north along CSAH 27 to STH 1, east along STH 1 to CSAH 28 in Pennington County, north along CSAH 28 to CSAH 54 in Marshall County, north along CSAH 54 to CSAH 9 in Roseau County, north along CSAH 9 to STH 11, west along STH 11 to STH 310, and north along STH 310 to the Manitoba border.

Intensive Harvest Zone—That portion of the State encompassed by a line extending east from the junction of US 2 and the North Dakota border, US 2 east to MN 32 N, MN 32 N to MN 92 S, MN 92 S to MN 200 E, MN 200 E to US 71 S, US 71 S to US 10 E, US 10 E to MN 101 S, MN 101 S to Interstate 94 E, Interstate 94 E to US 494 S, US 494 S to US 212 W, US 212 W to MN 23 S, MN 23 S to US 14 W, US 14 W to the South Dakota border, South Dakota Border north to the North Dakota border, North Dakota border north to US 2 E.

Rest of State: Remainder of Minnesota.

## **Wisconsin**

Early-Season Subzone A—That portion of the State encompassed by a line beginning at the intersection of U.S. Highway 141 and the Michigan border near Niagara, then south along U.S. 141 to State Highway 22, west and southwest along State 22 to U.S. 45, south along U.S. 45 to State 22, west and south along State 22 to State 110, south along State 110 to U.S. 10, south along U.S. 10 to State 49, south along State 49 to State 23, west along State 23 to State 73, south along State 73 to State 60, west along State 60 to State 23, south along State 23 to State 11, east along State 11 to State 78, then south along State 78 to the Illinois border.

Early-Season Subzone B—The remainder of the State.

## **Central Flyway**

### **North Dakota**

Missouri River Canada Goose Zone—The area within and bounded by a line starting where ND Hwy 6 crosses the South Dakota border; then north on ND Hwy 6 to I-94; then west on I-94 to ND Hwy 49; then north on ND Hwy 49 to ND Hwy 200; then north on Mercer County Rd. 21 to the section line between sections 8 and 9 (T146N-R87W); then north on that section line to the southern shoreline to Lake Sakakawea; then east along the southern shoreline (including Mallard Island) of Lake Sakakawea to US Hwy 83; then south on US Hwy 83 to ND Hwy 200; then east on ND Hwy 200 to ND Hwy 41; then south on ND Hwy 41 to US Hwy 83; then south on US Hwy 83 to I-94; then east on I-94 to US Hwy 83; then south on US Hwy 83 to the South Dakota border; then west along the South Dakota border to ND Hwy 6.

Rest of State—Remainder of North Dakota.

### **South Dakota**

Special Early Canada Goose Unit—The Counties of Campbell, Marshall, Roberts, Day, Clark, Codington, Grant, Hamlin, Deuel, Walworth; that portion of of Perrkins County west of State Highway 75 and south of State Highway 20; that portion of Dewey County north of Bureau of Indian Affairs Road 8, Bureau of Indian Affairs Road 9, and the section of U.S. Highway 212 east of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Road 8 junction; that portion of Potter County east of U.S. Highway 83; that portion of Sully County east of U.S. Highway 83; portions of Hyde, Buffalo, Brule, and Charles Mix counties north and east of a line beginning at the Hughes-Hyde County line on State Highway 34, east to Lees Boulevard, southeast to the State Highway 34, east 7 miles to 350<sup>th</sup> Avenue, south to Interstate 90 on 350<sup>th</sup> Avenue, south and east on State Highway 50 to Geddes, east on 285<sup>th</sup> Street to U.S. Highway 281, and north on U.S. Highway 281 to the Charles Mix-Douglas County boundary; that portion of Bon Homme County north of State Highway 50; McPherson, Edmunds, Kingsbury, Brookings, Lake, Moody, Miner, Faulk, Hand, Jerauld, Douglas, Hutchinson, Turner, Lincoln, Union, Clay, Yankton, Aurora, Beadle, Davison, Hanson, Sanborn, Spink, Brown, Harding, Butte, Lawrence, Meade, Shannon, Jackson, Mellette, Todd, Jones, Haakon, Corson, Ziebach, McCook, and Minnehaha Counties.

### **Texas**

Eastern Goose Zone—East of a line from the International Toll Bridge at Laredo, north following IH-35 and 35W to Fort Worth, northwest along U.S. Hwy. 81 and 287 to Bowie, north along U.S. Hwy. 81 to the Texas-Oklahoma State line.

## **Pacific Flyway**

### **Oregon**

Northwest Zone—Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk, Multnomah, Tillamook, Washington, and Yamhill Counties.

Southwest Zone—Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, and Klamath Counties.

East Zone—Baker, Gilliam, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, and Wasco Counties.

### **Washington**

Area 1—Skagit, Island, and Snohomish Counties.

Area 2A (SW Quota Zone)—Clark County, except portions south of the Washougal River; Cowlitz County; and Wahkiakum County.

Area 2B (SW Quota Zone)—Pacific County.

Area 3—All areas west of the Pacific Crest Trail and west of the Big White Salmon River that are not included in Areas 1, 2A, and 2B.

Area 4—Adams, Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Kittitas, Lincoln, Okanogan, Spokane, and Walla Walla Counties.

Area 5—All areas east of the Pacific Crest Trail and east of the Big White Salmon River that are not included in Area 4.

## **Ducks**

### **Atlantic Flyway**

#### **New York**

Lake Champlain Zone—The U.S. portion of Lake Champlain and that area east and north of a line extending along NY 9B from the Canadian border to U.S. 9, south along U.S. 9 to NY 22 south of Keesville; south along NY 22 to the west shore of South Bay, along and around the shoreline of South Bay to NY 22 on the east shore of South Bay; southeast along NY 22 to U.S. 4, northeast along U.S. 4 to the Vermont border.

Long Island Zone—That area consisting of Nassau County, Suffolk County, that area of Westchester County southeast of I-95, and their tidal waters.

Western Zone—That area west of a line extending from Lake Ontario east along the north shore of the Salmon River to I-81, and south along I-81 to the Pennsylvania border.

Northeastern Zone—That area north of a line extending from Lake Ontario east along the north shore of the Salmon River to I-81, south along I-81 to NY 49, east along NY 49 to NY 365, east along NY 365 to NY 28, east along NY 28 to NY 29, east along NY 29 to I-87, north along I-87 to U.S. 9 (at Exit 20), north along U.S. 9 to NY 149, east along NY 149 to U.S. 4, north along

U.S. 4 to the Vermont border, exclusive of the Lake Champlain Zone.

Southeastern Zone—The remaining portion of New York.

## **Maryland**

Special Teal Season Area— Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties; that part of Anne Arundel County east of Interstate 895, Interstate 97, and Route 3; that part of Prince Georges County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County east of Route 301 to the Virginia State Line.

## **Mississippi Flyway**

### **Indiana**

North Zone—That part of Indiana north of a line extending east from the Illinois border along State Road 18 to U.S. 31; north along U.S. 31 to U.S. 24; east along U.S. 24 to Huntington; southeast along U.S. 224; south along State Road 5; and east along State Road 124 to the Ohio border.

Central Zone—That part of Indiana south of the North Zone boundary and north of the South Zone boundary.

South Zone—That part of Indiana south of a line extending east from the Illinois border along U.S. 40; south along U.S. 41; east along State Road 58; south along State Road 37 to Bedford;



and east along U.S. 50 to the Ohio border.

## **Iowa**

North Zone—That portion of Iowa north of a line beginning on the South Dakota-Iowa border at Interstate 29, southeast along Interstate 29 to State Highway 175, east along State Highway 175 to State Highway 37, southeast along State Highway 37 to State Highway 183, northeast along State Highway 183 to State Highway 141, east along State Highway 141 to U.S. Highway 30, and along U.S. Highway 30 to the Illinois border.

Missouri River Zone—That portion of Iowa west of a line beginning on the South Dakota-Iowa border at Interstate 29, southeast along Interstate 29 to State Highway 175, and west along State Highway 175 to the Iowa-Nebraska border.

South Zone—The remainder of Iowa.

## **Michigan**

North Zone: The Upper Peninsula.

Middle Zone: That portion of the Lower Peninsula north of a line beginning at the Wisconsin State line in Lake Michigan due west of the mouth of Stony Creek in Oceana County; then due east to, and easterly and southerly along the south shore of Stony Creek to Scenic Drive, easterly and southerly along Scenic Drive to Stony Lake Road, easterly along Stony Lake and Garfield Roads to Michigan Highway 20, east along Michigan 20 to U.S. Highway 10 Business Route

(BR) in the city of Midland, easterly along U.S. 10 BR to U.S. 10, easterly along U.S. 10 to Interstate Highway 75/U.S. Highway 23, northerly along I-75/U.S. 23 to the U.S. 23 exit at Standish, easterly along U.S. 23 to the centerline of the Au Gres River, then southerly along the centerline of the Au Gres River to Saginaw Bay, then on a line directly east 10 miles into Saginaw Bay, and from that point on a line directly northeast to the Canadian border.

South Zone: The remainder of Michigan.

### **Wisconsin**

North Zone: That portion of the State north of a line extending east from the Minnesota State line along U.S. Highway 10 into Portage County to County Highway HH, east on County Highway HH to State Highway 66 and then east on State Highway 66 to U.S. Highway 10, continuing east on U.S. Highway 10 to U.S. Highway 41, then north on U.S. Highway 41 to the Michigan State line.

Mississippi River Zone: That area encompassed by a line beginning at the intersection of the Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railway and the Illinois State line in Grant County and extending northerly along the Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railway to the city limit of Prescott in Pierce County, then west along the Prescott city limit to the Minnesota State line.

South Zone: The remainder of Wisconsin.

### **Central Flyway**

## **Colorado**

Special Teal Season Area—Lake and Chaffee Counties and that portion of the State east of Interstate Highway 25.

## **Kansas**

High Plains Zone —That portion of the State west of U.S. 283.

Early Zone —That part of Kansas bounded by a line from the Nebraska–Kansas State line south on K–128 to its junction with U.S.–36, then east on U.S.–36 to its junction with K–199, then south on K–199 to its junction with Republic County 30 Rd, then south on Republic County 30 Rd to its junction with K–148, then east on K–148 to its junction with Republic County 50 Rd, then south on Republic County 50 Rd to its junction with Cloud County 40<sup>th</sup> Rd, then south on Cloud County 40<sup>th</sup> Rd to its junction with K–9, then west on K–9 to its junction with U.S.–24, then west on U.S.–24 to its junction with U.S.–281, then north on U.S.–281 to its junction with U.S.–36, then west on U.S.–36 to its junction with U.S.–183, then south on U.S.–183 to its junction with U.S.–24, then west on U.S.–24 to its junction with K–18, then southeast on K–18 to its junction with U.S.–183, then south on U.S.–183 to its junction with K–4, then east on K–4 to its junction with I–135, then south on I–135 to its junction with K–61, then southwest on K–61 to McPherson County 14th Avenue, then south on McPherson County 14th Avenue to its junction with Arapaho Rd, then west on Arapaho Rd to its junction with K–61, then southwest on K–61 to its junction with K–96, then northwest on K–96 to its junction with U.S.–56, then southwest on U.S.–56 to its junction with K–19, then east on K–19 to its junction with U.S.–281, then south on U.S.–281 to its junction with U.S.–54, then west on U.S.–54 to its junction with

U.S.–183, then north on U.S.–183 to its junction with U.S.–56, then southwest on U.S.–56 to its junction with Ford County Rd 126, then south on Ford County Rd 126 to its junction with U.S.–400, then northwest on U.S.–400 to its junction with U.S.–283, then north on U.S.–283 to its junction with the Nebraska–Kansas State line, then east along the Nebraska–Kansas State line to its junction with K–128.

Late Zone —That part of Kansas bounded by a line from the Nebraska–Kansas State line south on K–128 to its junction with U.S.–36, then east on U.S.–36 to its junction with K–199, then south on K–199 to its junction with Republic County 30 Rd, then south on Republic County 30 Rd to its junction with K–148, then east on K–148 to its junction with Republic County 50 Rd, then south on Republic County 50 Rd to its junction with Cloud County 40<sup>th</sup> Rd, then south on Cloud County 40<sup>th</sup> Rd to its junction with K–9, then west on K–9 to its junction with U.S.–24, then west on U.S.–24 to its junction with U.S.–281, then north on U.S.–281 to its junction with U.S.–36, then west on U.S.–36 to its junction with U.S.–183, then south on U.S.–183 to its junction with U.S.–24, then west on U.S.–24 to its junction with K–18, then southeast on K–18 to its junction with U.S.–183, then south on U.S.–183 to its junction with K–4, then east on K–4 to its junction with I–135, then south on I–135 to its junction with K–61, then southwest on K–61 to 14th Avenue, then south on 14th Avenue to its junction with Arapaho Rd, then west on Arapaho Rd to its junction with K–61, then southwest on K–61 to its junction with K–96, then northwest on K–96 to its junction with U.S.–56, then southwest on U.S.–56 to its junction with K–19, then east on K–19 to its junction with U.S.–281, then south on U.S.–281 to its junction with U.S.–54, then west on U.S.–54 to its junction with U.S.–183, then north on U.S.–183 to its junction with U.S.–56, then southwest on U.S.–56 to its junction with Ford County Rd 126, then

south on Ford County Rd 126 to its junction with U.S.–400, then northwest on U.S.–400 to its junction with U.S.–283, then south on U.S.–283 to its junction with the Oklahoma–Kansas State line, then east along the Oklahoma–Kansas State line to its junction with U.S.–77, then north on U.S.–77 to its junction with Butler County, NE 150th Street, then east on Butler County, NE 150th Street to its junction with U.S.–35, then northeast on U.S.–35 to its junction with K–68, then east on K–68 to the Kansas–Missouri State line, then north along the Kansas–Missouri State line to its junction with the Nebraska State line, then west along the Kansas–Nebraska State line to its junction with K–128.

Southeast Zone —That part of Kansas bounded by a line from the Missouri–Kansas State line west on K–68 to its junction with U.S.–35, then southwest on U.S.–35 to its junction with Butler County, NE 150th Street, then west on NE 150th Street until its junction with K–77, then south on K–77 to the Oklahoma–Kansas State line, then east along the Kansas–Oklahoma State line to its junction with the Missouri State line, then north along the Kansas–Missouri State line to its junction with K–68.

## **Nebraska**

Special Teal Season Area (south)—That portion of the State south of a line beginning at the Wyoming State line; east along U.S. 26 to Nebraska Highway L62A east to U.S. 385; south to U.S. 26; east to NE 92; east along NE 92 to NE 61; south along NE 61 to U.S. 30; east along U.S. 30 to the Iowa border.

Special Teal Season Area (north)—The remainder of the State.

High Plains—That portion of Nebraska lying west of a line beginning at the South Dakota-Nebraska border on U.S. Hwy. 183; south on U.S. Hwy. 183 to U.S. Hwy. 20; west on U.S. Hwy. 20 to NE Hwy. 7; south on NE Hwy. 7 to NE Hwy. 91; southwest on NE Hwy. 91 to NE Hwy. 2; southeast on NE Hwy. 2 to NE Hwy. 92; west on NE Hwy. 92 to NE Hwy. 40; south on NE Hwy. 40 to NE Hwy. 47; south on NE Hwy. 47 to NE Hwy. 23; east on NE Hwy. 23 to U.S. Hwy. 283; and south on U.S. Hwy. 283 to the Kansas-Nebraska border.

Zone 1—Area bounded by designated Federal and State highways and political boundaries beginning at the South Dakota-Nebraska border west of NE Hwy. 26E Spur and north of NE Hwy. 12; those portions of Dixon, Cedar and Knox Counties north of NE Hwy. 12; that portion of Keya Paha County east of U.S. Hwy. 183; and all of Boyd County. Both banks of the Niobrara River in Keya Paha and Boyd counties east of U.S. Hwy. 183 shall be included in Zone 1.

Zone 2—The area south of Zone 1 and north of Zone 3.

Zone 3—Area bounded by designated Federal and State highways, County Roads, and political boundaries beginning at the Wyoming-Nebraska border at the intersection of the Interstate Canal; east along northern borders of Scotts Bluff and Morrill Counties to Broadwater Road; south to Morrill County Rd 94; east to County Rd 135; south to County Rd 88; southeast to County Rd 151; south to County Rd 80; east to County Rd 161; south to County Rd 76; east to County Rd 165; south to County Rd 167; south to U.S. Hwy. 26; east to County Rd 171; north to County Rd 68; east to County Rd 183; south to County Rd 64; east to County Rd 189; north to

County Rd 70; east to County Rd 201; south to County Rd 60A; east to County Rd 203; south to County Rd 52; east to Keith County Line; east along the northern boundaries of Keith and Lincoln Counties to NE Hwy. 97; south to U.S. Hwy 83; south to E Hall School Rd; east to N Airport Road; south to U.S. Hwy. 30; east to Merrick County Rd 13; north to County Rd O; east to NE Hwy. 14; north to NE Hwy. 52; west and north to NE Hwy. 91; west to U.S. Hwy. 281; south to NE Hwy. 22; west to NE Hwy. 11; northwest to NE Hwy. 91; west to U.S. Hwy. 183; south to Round Valley Rd; west to Sargent River Rd; west to Sargent Rd; west to Milburn Rd; north to Blaine County Line; east to Loup County Line; north to NE Hwy. 91; west to North Loup Spur Rd; north to North Loup River Rd; east to Pleasant Valley/Worth Rd; east to Loup County Line; north to Loup-Brown county line; east along northern boundaries of Loup and Garfield Counties to Cedar River Rd; south to NE Hwy. 70; east to U.S. Hwy. 281; north to NE Hwy. 70; east to NE Hwy. 14; south to NE Hwy. 39; southeast to NE Hwy. 22; east to U.S. Hwy. 81; southeast to U.S. Hwy. 30; east to U.S. Hwy. 75; north to the Washington County line; east to the Iowa–Nebraska border; south to the Missouri–Nebraska border; south to Kansas–Nebraska border; west along Kansas–Nebraska border to Colorado–Nebraska border; north and west to Wyoming–Nebraska border; north to intersection of Interstate Canal; and excluding that area in Zone 4.

Zone 4—Area encompassed by designated Federal and State highways and County Roads beginning at the intersection of NE Hwy. 8 and U.S. Hwy. 75; north to U.S. Hwy. 136; east to the intersection of U.S. Hwy. 136 and the Steamboat Trace (Trace); north along the Trace to the intersection with Federal Levee R–562; north along Federal Levee R–562 to the intersection with the Trace; north along the Trace/Burlington Northern Railroad right-of-way to NE Hwy. 2; west

to U.S. Hwy. 75; north to NE Hwy. 2; west to NE Hwy. 43; north to U.S. Hwy. 34; east to NE Hwy. 63; north to NE Hwy. 66; north and west to U.S. Hwy. 77; north to NE Hwy. 92; west to NE Hwy. Spur 12F; south to Butler County Rd 30; east to County Rd X; south to County Rd 27; west to County Rd W; south to County Rd 26; east to County Rd X; south to County Rd 21 (Seward County Line); west to NE Hwy. 15; north to County Rd 34; west to County Rd J; south to NE Hwy. 92; west to U.S. Hwy. 81; south to NE Hwy. 66; west to Polk County Rd C; north to NE Hwy. 92; west to U.S. Hwy. 30; west to Merrick County Rd 17; south to Hordlake Road; southeast to Prairie Island Road; southeast to Hamilton County Rd T; south to NE Hwy. 66; west to NE Hwy. 14; south to County Rd 22; west to County Rd M; south to County Rd 21; west to County Rd K; south to U.S. Hwy. 34; west to NE Hwy. 2; south to U.S. Hwy. I-80; west to Gunbarrel Rd (Hall/Hamilton county line); south to Giltner Rd; west to U.S. Hwy. 281; south to U.S. Hwy. 34; west to NE Hwy. 10; north to Kearney County Rd R and Phelps County Rd 742; west to U.S. Hwy. 283; south to U.S. Hwy 34; east to U.S. Hwy. 136; east to U.S. Hwy. 183; north to NE Hwy. 4; east to NE Hwy. 10; south to U.S. Hwy. 136; east to NE Hwy. 14; south to NE Hwy. 8; east to U.S. Hwy. 81; north to NE Hwy. 4; east to NE Hwy. 15; south to U.S. Hwy. 136; east to NE Hwy. 103; south to NE Hwy. 8; east to U.S. Hwy. 75.

### **New Mexico (Central Flyway Portion)**

North Zone—That portion of the State north of I-40 and U.S. 54.

South Zone—The remainder of New Mexico.

### **Pacific Flyway**



## **California**

Northeastern Zone—In that portion of California lying east and north of a line beginning at the intersection of Interstate 5 with the California–Oregon line; south along Interstate 5 to its junction with Walters Lane south of the town of Yreka; west along Walters Lane to its junction with Easy Street; south along Easy Street to the junction with Old Highway 99; south along Old Highway 99 to the point of intersection with Interstate 5 north of the town of Weed; south along Interstate 5 to its junction with Highway 89; east and south along Highway 89 to Main Street Greenville; north and east to its junction with North Valley Road; south to its junction of Diamond Mountain Road; north and east to its junction with North Arm Road; south and west to the junction of North Valley Road; south to the junction with Arlington Road (A22); west to the junction of Highway 89; south and west to the junction of Highway 70; east on Highway 70 to Highway 395; south and east on Highway 395 to the point of intersection with the California–Nevada State line; north along the California–Nevada State line to the junction of the California–Nevada–Oregon State lines west along the California–Oregon State line to the point of origin.

Colorado River Zone—Those portions of San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial Counties east of a line extending from the Nevada border south along U.S. 95 to Vidal Junction; south on a road known as “Aqueduct Road” in San Bernardino County through the town of Rice to the San Bernardino–Riverside County line; south on a road known in Riverside County as the “Desert Center to Rice Road” to the town of Desert Center; east 31 miles on I-10 to the Wiley Well Road; south on this road to Wiley Well; southeast along the Army–Milpitas Road to the Blythe, Brawley, Davis Lake intersections; south on the Blythe–Brawley paved road to the Ogilby and Tumco Mine Road; south on this road to U.S. 80; east 7 miles on U.S. 80 to the Andrade–

Algodones Road; south on this paved road to the Mexican border at Algodones, Mexico.

Southern Zone—That portion of southern California (but excluding the Colorado River Zone) south and east of a line extending from the Pacific Ocean east along the Santa Maria River to CA 166 near the City of Santa Maria; east on CA 166 to CA 99; south on CA 99 to the crest of the Tehachapi Mountains at Tejon Pass; east and north along the crest of the Tehachapi Mountains to CA 178 at Walker Pass; east on CA 178 to U.S. 395 at the town of Inyokern; south on U.S. 395 to CA 58; east on CA 58 to I-15; east on I-15 to CA 127; north on CA 127 to the Nevada border.

Southern San Joaquin Valley Temporary Zone—All of Kings and Tulare Counties and that portion of Kern County north of the Southern Zone.

Balance-of-the-State Zone—The remainder of California not included in the Northeastern, Southern, and Colorado River Zones, and the Southern San Joaquin Valley Temporary Zone.

## **Canada Geese**

### **Michigan**

North Zone – Same as North duck zone.

Middle Zone – Same as Middle duck zone.

South Zone – Same as South duck zone.

Tuscola/Huron Goose Management Unit (GMU): Those portions of Tuscola and Huron Counties bounded on the south by Michigan Highway 138 and Bay City Road, on the east by Colwood and Bay Port Roads, on the north by Kilmanagh Road and a line extending directly west off the end of Kilmanagh Road into Saginaw Bay to the west boundary, and on the west by the Tuscola–Bay County line and a line extending directly north off the end of the Tuscola–Bay County line into Saginaw Bay to the north boundary.

Allegan County GMU: That area encompassed by a line beginning at the junction of 136th Avenue and Interstate Highway 196 in Lake Town Township and extending easterly along 136th Avenue to Michigan Highway 40, southerly along Michigan 40 through the city of Allegan to 108th Avenue in Trowbridge Township, westerly along 108th Avenue to 46th Street, northerly along 46th Street to 109th Avenue, westerly along 109th Avenue to I–196 in Casco Township, then northerly along I–196 to the point of beginning.

Saginaw County GMU: That portion of Saginaw County bounded by Michigan Highway 46 on the north; Michigan 52 on the west; Michigan 57 on the south; and Michigan 13 on the east.

Muskegon Wastewater GMU: That portion of Muskegon County within the boundaries of the Muskegon County wastewater system, east of the Muskegon State Game Area, in sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, and 32, T10N R14W, and sections 1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 24, and 25, T10N R15W, as posted.

## **Wisconsin**

Same zones as for ducks but in addition:

Horicon Zone: That area encompassed by a line beginning at the intersection of State 21 and the Fox River in Winnebago County and extending westerly along State 21 to the west boundary of Winnebago County, southerly along the west boundary of Winnebago County to the north boundary of Green Lake County, westerly along the north boundaries of Green Lake and Marquette Counties to State 22, southerly along State 22 to State 33, westerly along State 33 to I-39, southerly along I-39 to I-90/94, southerly along I-90/94 to State 60, easterly along State 60 to State 83, northerly along State 83 to State 175, northerly along State 175 to State 33, easterly along State 33 to U.S. 45, northerly along U.S. 45 to the east shore of the Fond Du Lac River, northerly along the east shore of the Fond Du Lac River to Lake Winnebago, northerly along the western shoreline of Lake Winnebago to the Fox River, then westerly along the Fox River to State 21.

Exterior Zone: That portion of the State not included in the Horicon Zone.

Mississippi River Subzone: That area encompassed by a line beginning at the intersection of the Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railway and the Illinois State line in Grant County and extending northerly along the Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railway to the city limit of Prescott in Pierce County, then west along the Prescott city limit to the Minnesota State line.

Brown County Subzone: That area encompassed by a line beginning at the intersection of the Fox River with Green Bay in Brown County and extending southerly along the Fox River to

State 29, northwesterly along State 29 to the Brown County line, south, east, and north along the Brown County line to Green Bay, due west to the midpoint of the Green Bay Ship Channel, then southwesterly along the Green Bay Ship Channel to the Fox River.

### **Sandhill Cranes**

### **Mississippi Flyway**

### **Minnesota**

Northwest Goose Zone—That portion of the State encompassed by a line extending east from the North Dakota border along U.S. Highway 2 to State Trunk Highway (STH) 32, north along STH 32 to STH 92, east along STH 92 to County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 2 in Polk County, north along CSAH 2 to CSAH 27 in Pennington County, north along CSAH 27 to STH 1, east along STH 1 to CSAH 28 in Pennington County, north along CSAH 28 to CSAH 54 in Marshall County, north along CSAH 54 to CSAH 9 in Roseau County, north along CSAH 9 to STH 11, west along STH 11 to STH 310, and north along STH 310 to the Manitoba border.

### **Tennessee**

Hunt Zone—That portion of the State south of Interstate 40 and east of State Highway 56.

Closed Zone—Remainder of the State.

### **Central Flyway**

**Colorado**—The Central Flyway portion of the State except the San Luis Valley (Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Hinsdale, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache Counties east of the Continental

Divide) and North Park (Jackson County).

**Kansas**—That portion of the State west of a line beginning at the Oklahoma border, north on I-35 to Wichita, north on I-135 to Salina, and north on U.S. 81 to the Nebraska border.

**Montana**—The Central Flyway portion of the State except for that area south and west of Interstate 90, which is closed to sandhill crane hunting.

### **New Mexico**

Regular-Season Open Area—Chaves, Curry, De Baca, Eddy, Lea, Quay, and Roosevelt Counties.

Middle Rio Grande Valley Area—The Central Flyway portion of New Mexico in Socorro and Valencia Counties.

Estancia Valley Area—Those portions of Santa Fe, Torrance and Bernalillo Counties within an area bounded on the west by New Mexico Highway 55 beginning at Mountainair north to NM 337, north to NM 14, north to I-25; on the north by I-25 east to U.S. 285; on the east by U.S. 285 south to U.S. 60; and on the south by U.S. 60 from U.S. 285 west to NM 55 in Mountainair.

Southwest Zone— Area bounded on the south by the New Mexico/Mexico border; on the west by the New Mexico/Arizona border north to Interstate 10; on the north by Interstate 10 east to U.S. 180, north to N.M. 26, east to N.M. 27, north to N.M. 152, and east to Interstate 25; on the

east by Interstate 25 south to Interstate 10, west to the Luna county line, and south to the New Mexico/Mexico border.

### **North Dakota**

Area 1—That portion of the State west of U.S. 281.

Area 2—That portion of the State east of U.S. 281.

**Oklahoma**—That portion of the State west of I-35.

**South Dakota**—That portion of the State west of U.S. 281.

### **Texas**

Zone A—That portion of Texas lying west of a line beginning at the international toll bridge at Laredo, then northeast along U.S. Highway 81 to its junction with Interstate Highway 35 in Laredo, then north along Interstate Highway 35 to its junction with Interstate Highway 10 in San Antonio, then northwest along Interstate Highway 10 to its junction with U.S. Highway 83 at Junction, then north along U.S. Highway 83 to its junction with U.S. Highway 62, 16 miles north of Childress, then east along U.S. Highway 62 to the Texas–Oklahoma State line.

Zone B—That portion of Texas lying within boundaries beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 81 and the Texas–Oklahoma State line, then southeast along U.S. Highway 81 to its junction with U.S. Highway 287 in Montague County, then southeast along U.S. Highway 287 to

its junction with Interstate Highway 35W in Fort Worth, then southwest along Interstate Highway 35 to its junction with Interstate Highway 10 in San Antonio, then northwest along Interstate Highway 10 to its junction with U.S. Highway 83 in the town of Junction, then north along U.S. Highway 83 to its junction with U.S. Highway 62, 16 miles north of Childress, then east along U.S. Highway 62 to the Texas–Oklahoma State line, then south along the Texas–Oklahoma State line to the south bank of the Red River, then eastward along the vegetation line on the south bank of the Red River to U.S. Highway 81.

Zone C—The remainder of the State, except for the closed areas.

Closed areas—(A) That portion of the State lying east and north of a line beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 81 and the Texas–Oklahoma State line, then southeast along U.S. Highway 81 to its junction with U.S. Highway 287 in Montague County, then southeast along U.S. Highway 287 to its junction with Interstate Highway 35W in Fort Worth, then southwest along Interstate Highway 35 to its junction with U.S. Highway 290 East in Austin, then east along U.S. Highway 290 to its junction with Interstate Loop 610 in Harris County, then south and east along Interstate Loop 610 to its junction with Interstate Highway 45 in Houston, then south on Interstate Highway 45 to State Highway 342, then to the shore of the Gulf of Mexico, and then north and east along the shore of the Gulf of Mexico to the Texas–Louisiana State line.

(B) That portion of the State lying within the boundaries of a line beginning at the Kleberg–Nueces County line and the shore of the Gulf of Mexico, then west along the County line to Park Road 22 in Nueces County, then north and west along Park Road 22 to its junction with State



Highway 358 in Corpus Christi, then west and north along State Highway 358 to its junction with State Highway 286, then north along State Highway 286 to its junction with Interstate Highway 37, then east along Interstate Highway 37 to its junction with U.S. Highway 181, then north and west along U.S. Highway 181 to its junction with U.S. Highway 77 in Sinton, then north and east along U.S. Highway 77 to its junction with U.S. Highway 87 in Victoria, then south and east along U.S. Highway 87 to its junction with State Highway 35 at Port Lavaca, then north and east along State Highway 35 to the south end of the Lavaca Bay Causeway, then south and east along the shore of Lavaca Bay to its junction with the Port Lavaca Ship Channel, then south and east along the Lavaca Bay Ship Channel to the Gulf of Mexico, and then south and west along the shore of the Gulf of Mexico to the Kleberg–Nueces County line.

## **Wyoming**

Regular Season Open Area— Campbell, Converse, Crook, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, Platte, and Weston Counties.

Riverton-Boysen Unit—Portions of Fremont County.

Park and Big Horn County Unit— All of Big Horn, Hot Springs, Park and Washakie Counties.

## **Pacific Flyway**

### **Arizona**

Special Season Area—Game Management Units 28, 30A, 30B, 31, and 32.

**Idaho**

Special Season Area—See State regulations.

**Montana**

Special Season Area—See State regulations.

**Utah**

Special Season Area—Rich, Cache, and Uintah Counties and that portion of Box Elder County beginning on the Utah–Idaho State line at the Box Elder–Cache County line; west on the State line to the Pocatello Valley County Road; south on the Pocatello Valley County Road to I-15; southeast on I-15 to SR-83; south on SR-83 to Lamp Junction; west and south on the Promontory Point County Road to the tip of Promontory Point; south from Promontory Point to the Box Elder–Weber County line; east on the Box Elder–Weber County line to the Box Elder–Cache County line; north on the Box Elder–Cache County line to the Utah–Idaho State line.

**Wyoming**

Bear River Area—That portion of Lincoln County described in State regulations.

Salt River Area—That portion of Lincoln County described in State regulations.

Farson-Eden Area—Those portions of Sweetwater and Sublette Counties described in State regulations.

Uinta County Area—That portion of Uinta County described in State regulations.

### **All Migratory Game Birds in Alaska**

North Zone—State Game Management Units 11–13 and 17–26.

Gulf Coast Zone—State Game Management Units 5–7, 9, 14–16, and 10 (Unimak Island only).

Southeast Zone—State Game Management Units 1–4.

Pribilof and Aleutian Islands Zone—State Game Management Unit 10 (except Unimak Island).

Kodiak Zone—State Game Management Unit 8.

### **All Migratory Game Birds in the Virgin Islands**

Ruth Cay Closure Area—The island of Ruth Cay, just south of St. Croix.

### **All Migratory Game Birds in Puerto Rico**

Municipality of Culebra Closure Area—All of the municipality of Culebra.

Desecheo Island Closure Area—All of Desecheo Island.

Mona Island Closure Area—All of Mona Island.

El Verde Closure Area—Those areas of the municipalities of Rio Grande and Loiza delineated as follows: (1) All lands between Routes 956 on the west and 186 on the east, from Route 3 on the north to the juncture of Routes 956 and 186 (Km 13.2) in the south; (2) all lands between Routes 186 and 966 from the juncture of 186 and 966 on the north, to the Caribbean National Forest Boundary on the south; (3) all lands lying west of Route 186 for 1 kilometer from the juncture of Routes 186 and 956 south to Km 6 on Route 186; (4) all lands within Km 14 and Km 6 on the west and the Caribbean National Forest Boundary on the east; and (5) all lands within the Caribbean National Forest Boundary whether private or public.

Cidra Municipality and adjacent areas—All of Cidra Municipality and portions of Aguas Buenas, Caguas, Cayey, and Comerio Municipalities as encompassed within the following boundary: beginning on Highway 172 as it leaves the municipality of Cidra on the west edge, north to Highway 156, east on Highway 156 to Highway 1, south on Highway 1 to Highway 765, south on Highway 765 to Highway 763, south on Highway 763 to the Rio Guavate, west along Rio Guavate to Highway 1, southwest on Highway 1 to Highway 14, west on Highway 14 to Highway 729, north on Highway 729 to Cidra Municipality boundary to the point of the beginning.

## FINAL REGULATORY ALTERNATIVES FOR DUCK HUNTING DURING THE 2014-15 SEASON

	ATLANTIC FLYWAY			MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY			CENTRAL FLYWAY (a)			PACIFIC FLYWAY (b)(c)		
	RES	MOD	LIB	RES	MOD	LIB	RES	MOD	LIB	RES	MOD	LIB
Beginning Shooting Time	1/2 hr. before sunrise	1/2 hr. before sunrise	1/2 hr. before sunrise	1/2 hr. before sunrise	1/2 hr. before sunrise	1/2 hr. before sunrise	1/2 hr. before sunrise	1/2 hr. before sunrise	1/2 hr. before sunrise	1/2 hr. before sunrise	1/2 hr. before sunrise	1/2 hr. before sunrise
Ending Shooting Time	Sunset	Sunset	Sunset	Sunset	Sunset	Sunset	Sunset	Sunset	Sunset	Sunset	Sunset	Sunset
Opening Date	Oct. 1	Sat. nearest Sept. 24	Sat. nearest Sept. 24	Sat. nearest Oct. 1	Sat. nearest Sept. 24	Sat. nearest Sept. 24	Sat. nearest Oct. 1	Sat. nearest Sept. 24	Sat. nearest Sept. 24	Sat. nearest Oct. 1	Sat. nearest Sept. 24	Sat. nearest Sept. 24
Closing Date	Jan. 20	Last Sunday in Jan.	Last Sunday in Jan.	Sun. nearest Jan. 20	Last Sunday in Jan.	Last Sunday in Jan.	Sun. nearest Jan. 20	Last Sunday in Jan.	Last Sunday in Jan.	Sun. nearest Jan. 20	Last Sunday in Jan.	Last Sunday in Jan.
Season Length (in days)	30	45	60	30	45	60	39	60	74	60	86	107
Daily Bag/	3	6	6	3	6	6	3	6	6	4	7	7
<b>Species/Sex Limits within the Overall Daily Bag Limit</b>												
Mallard (Total/Female)	3/1	4/2	4/2	2/1	4/1	4/2	3/1	5/1	5/2	3/1	5/2	7/2

- (a) In the High Plains Mallard Management Unit, all regulations would be the same as the remainder of the Central Flyway, with the exception of season length. Additional days would be allowed under the various alternatives as follows: restrictive - 12, moderate and liberal - 23. Under all alternatives, additional days must be on or after the Saturday nearest December 10.
- (b) In the Columbia Basin Mallard Management Unit, all regulations would be the same as the remainder of the Pacific Flyway, with the exception of season length. Under all alternatives except the liberal alternative, an additional 7 days would be allowed.
- (c) In Alaska, framework dates, bag limits, and season length would be different from the remainder of the Pacific Flyway. The bag limit would be 5-8 under the restrictive alternative, and 7-10 under the moderate and liberal alternatives. Under all alternatives, season length would be 107 days and framework dates would be Sep. 1 - Jan. 26.

[FR Doc. 2014-17569 Filed 07/30/2014 at 8:45 am; Publication Date: 07/31/2014]